Vol.22

ROKUDA NOBORU

VOL.22

F
PEARL
VOL.22
DINNER TOGETHER

F

VOL.22
DINNER TOGETHER

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Chapter 10: Peabow, Peabow
Chapter 11: Dinner Together
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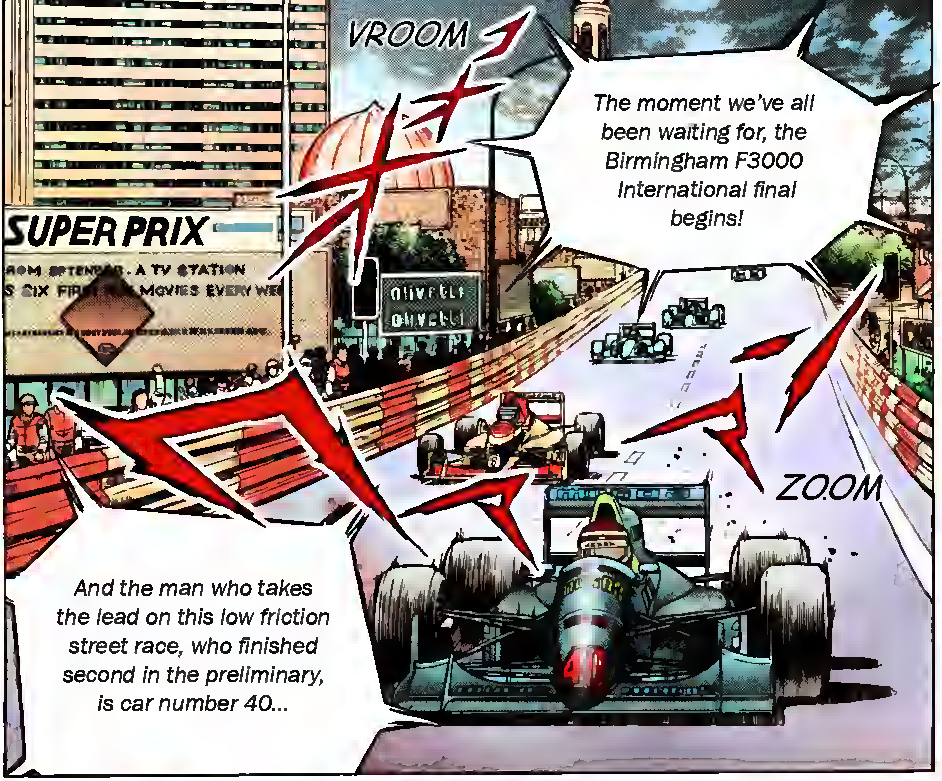
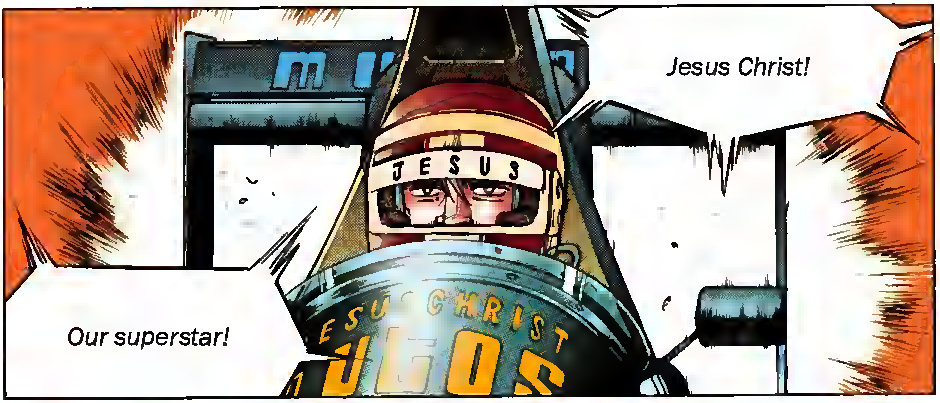
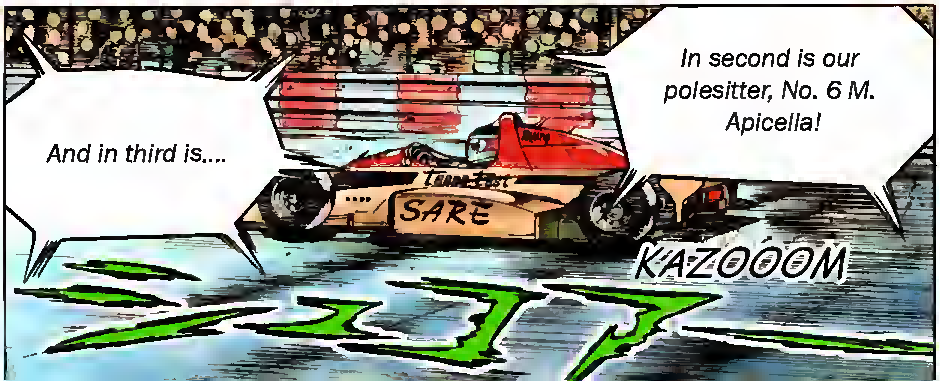
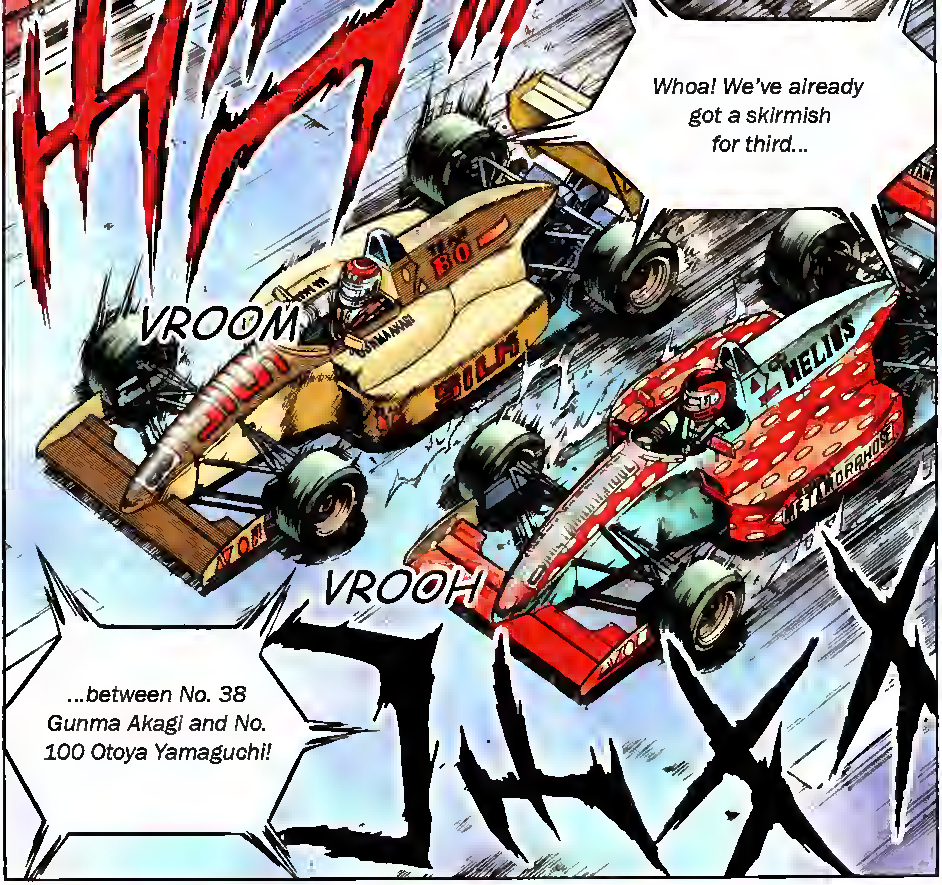
Chapter 1: The Waltz

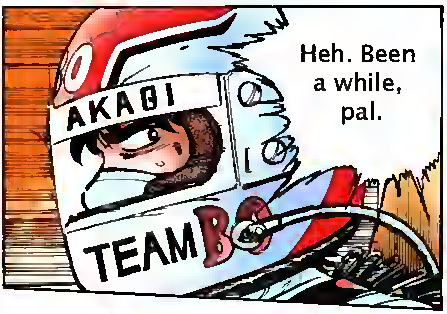
VRRR
VROOM
HAYNES MANUAL
FOOM
VRRR
TELE
OPE
38
TEAM
BO
SILK
TEAM
BO
NOVA

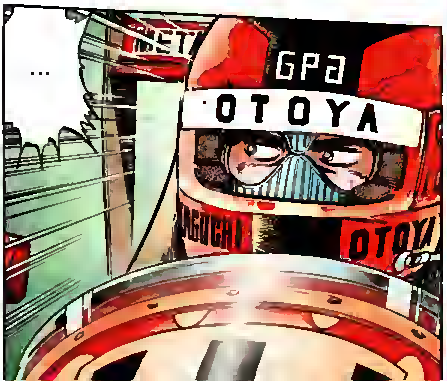

VROOM
SUPER PRIX
The moment we've all been waiting for, the Birmingham F3000 International final begins!
ZOOM
And the man who takes the lead on this low friction street race, who finished second in the preliminary, is car number 40...


JESUS
Jesus Christ!
Our superstar!

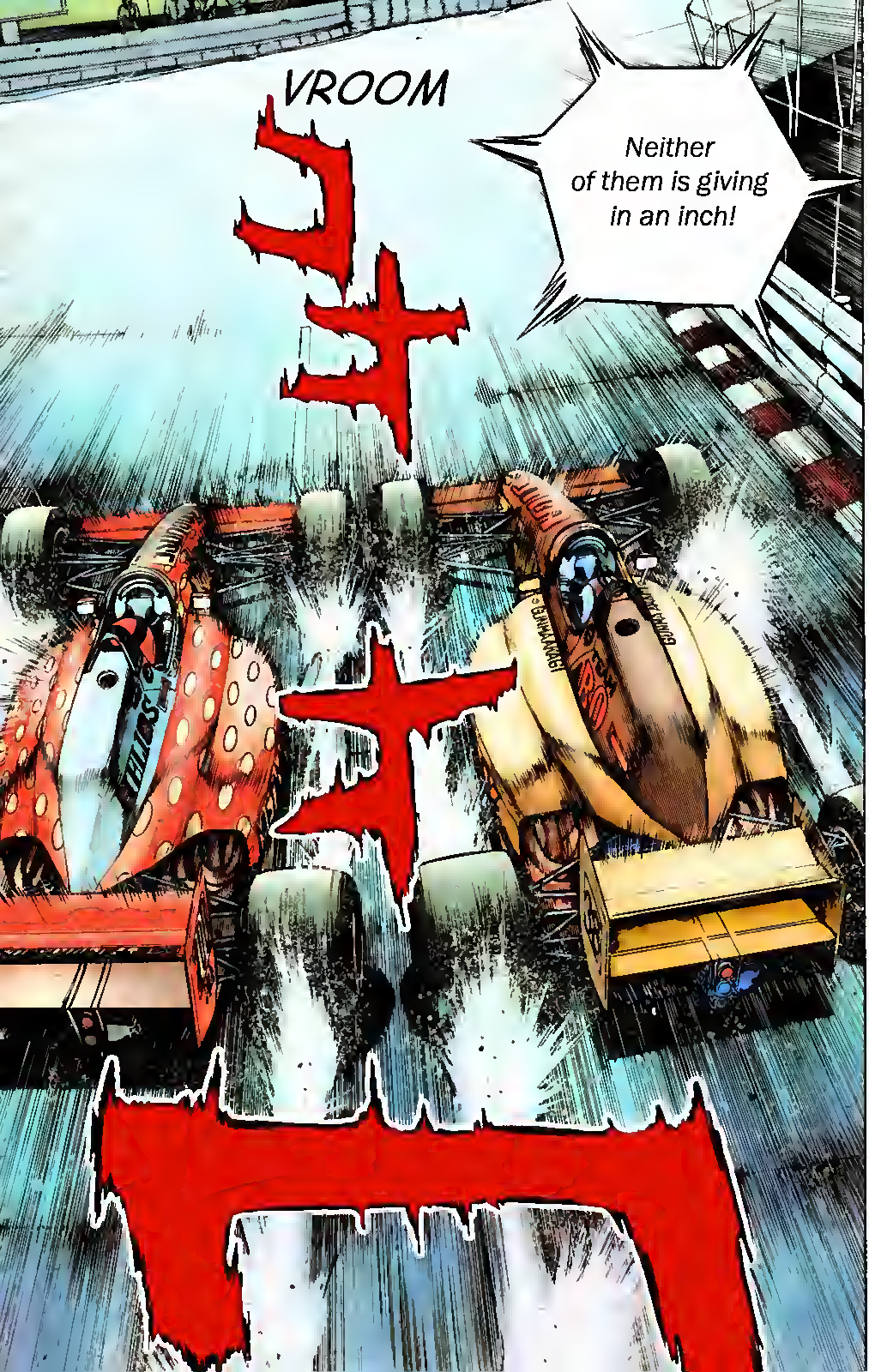

SARE
In second is our polesitter, No. 6 M. Apicella!
And in third is....
KAZOOOM

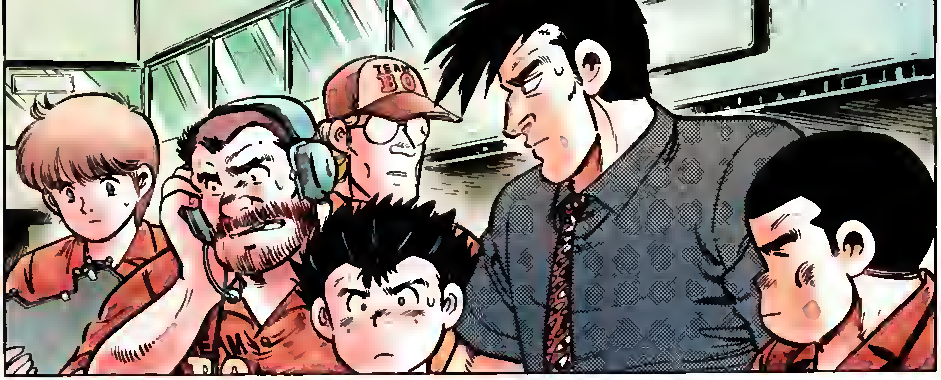

Whoa! We've already got a skirmish for third...
VROOM
VROOH
...between No. 38 Gunma Akagi and No. 100 Otoya Yamaguchi!

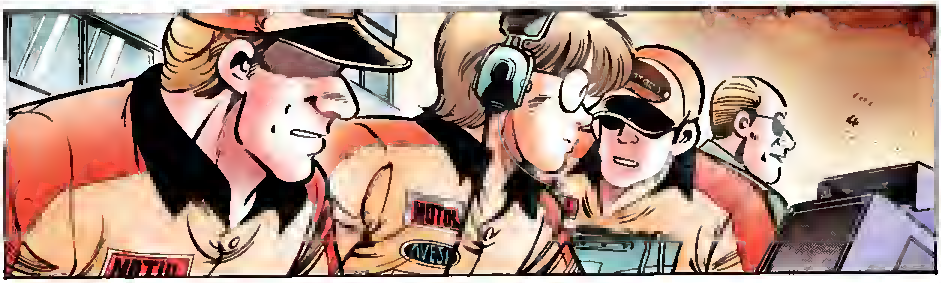

AKAGI
TEAM
Heh. Been a while, pal.


...
OTOYA

They're holding each other back on the straight, but it's going to be a scramble for the corner!
BRAAAH
VOOOM

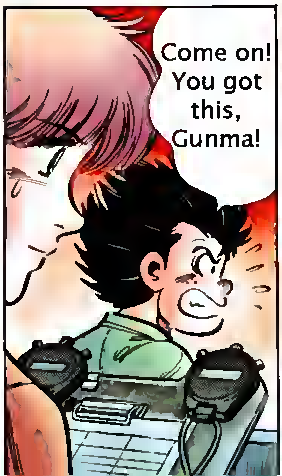

VROOM
Neither of them is giving in an inch!

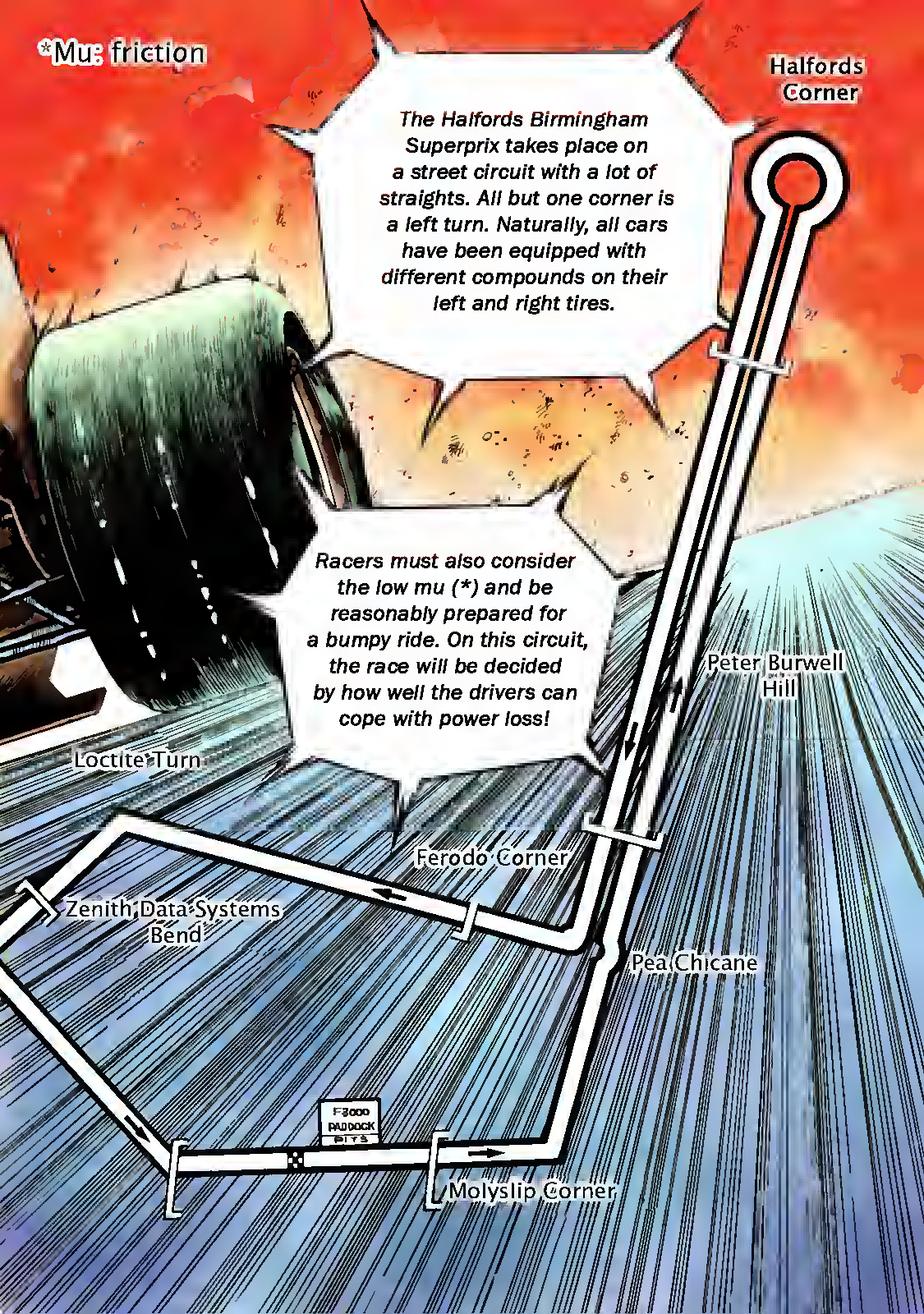




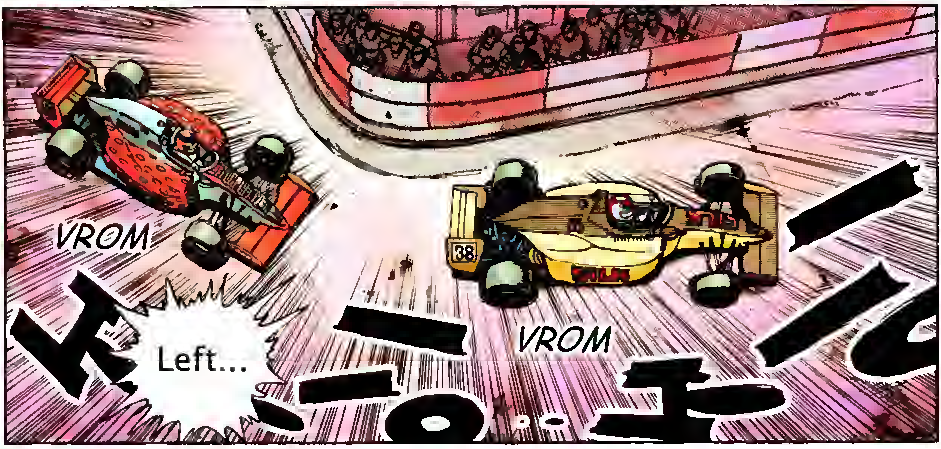
That Otoya's gettin' good...

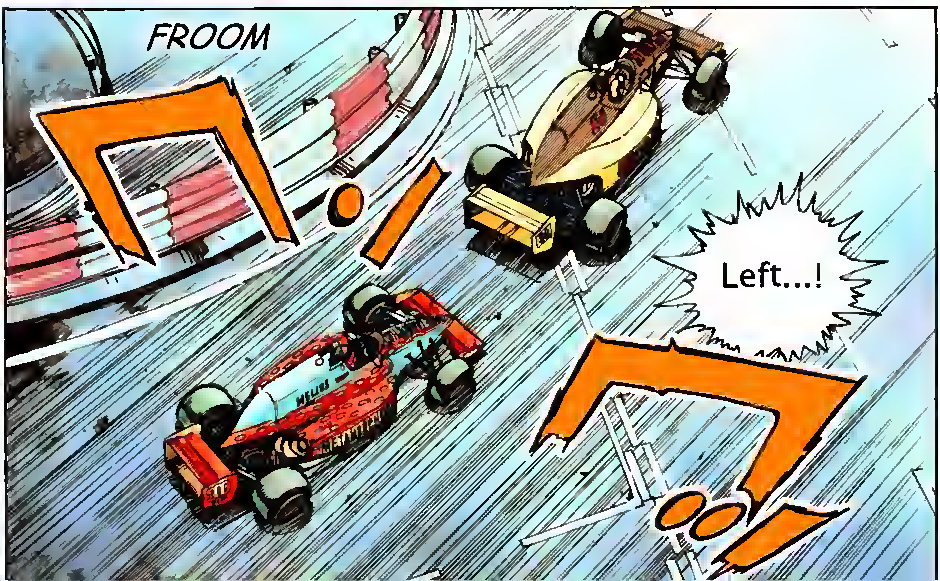
VROOOM
And Gunma Akagi is the first to clear the right corner into the Sherlock Straight!
ZOOOM
Just like in the preliminary, folks! Akagi shows the newbie what he's made of!


Come on! You got this, Gunma!

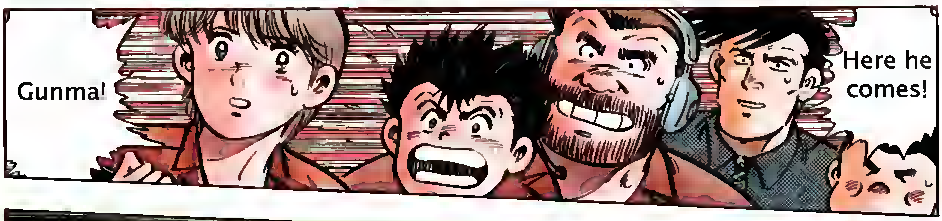

*Mu: friction
Halfords Corner
The Halfords Birmingham Superprix takes place on a street circuit with a lot of straights. All but one corner is a left turn. Naturally, all cars have been equipped with different compounds on their left and right tires.
Racers must also consider the low mu (*) and be reasonably prepared for a bumpy ride. On this circuit, the race will be decided by how well the drivers can cope with power loss!
Peter Burwell Hill
Loctite Turn
Ferodo Corner
Zenith Data Systems Bend
Pea Chicane
F3000 PADDOCK PITS
Molyslip Corner

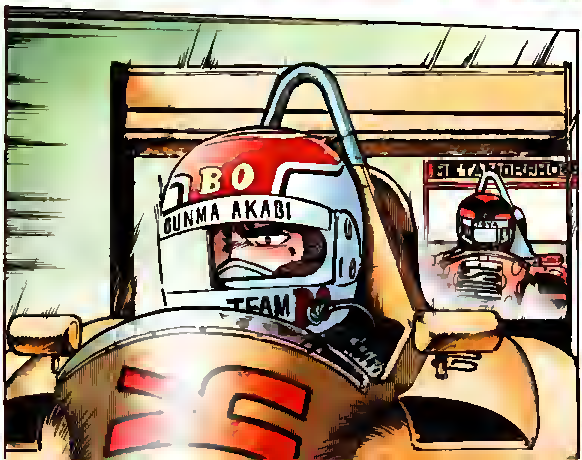
VROOM
Left...

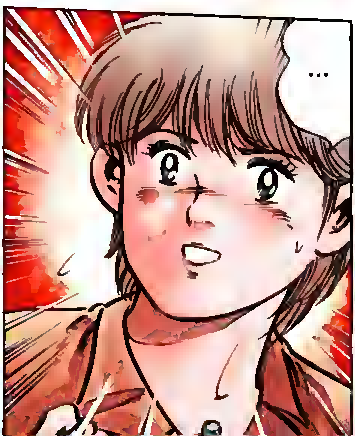

VROOM
Left...
VROOM

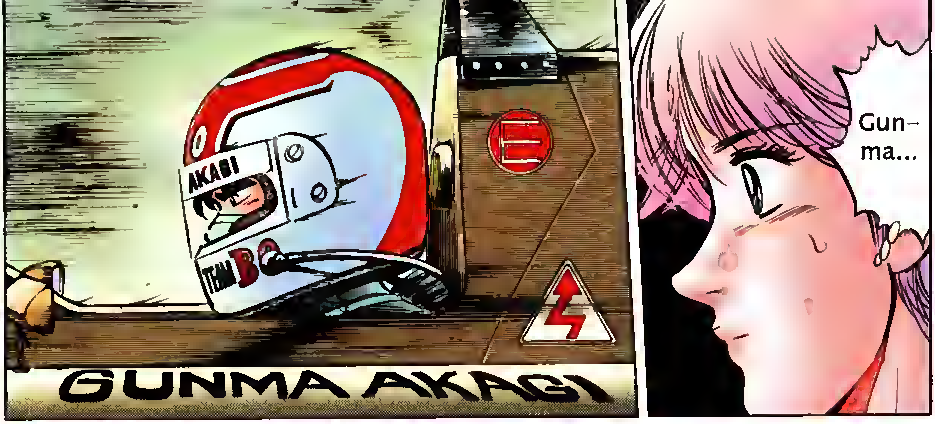

FROOM
Left...!

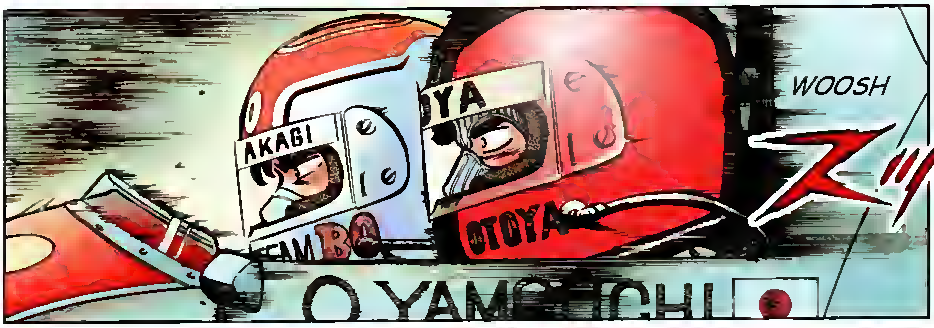
VROOM
All right, folks, all racers are now going down the home straight!
ZWOOOOOM

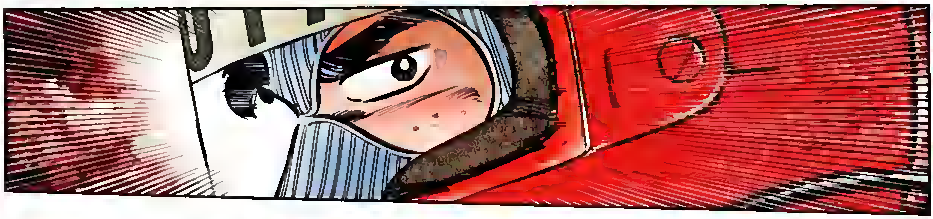

Gunma!
Here he comes!

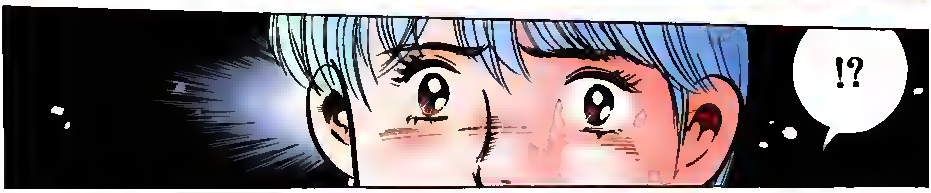

GUNMA AKABI
TEAM


...


AKAGI
GUNMA AKAGI
Gun-
ma...

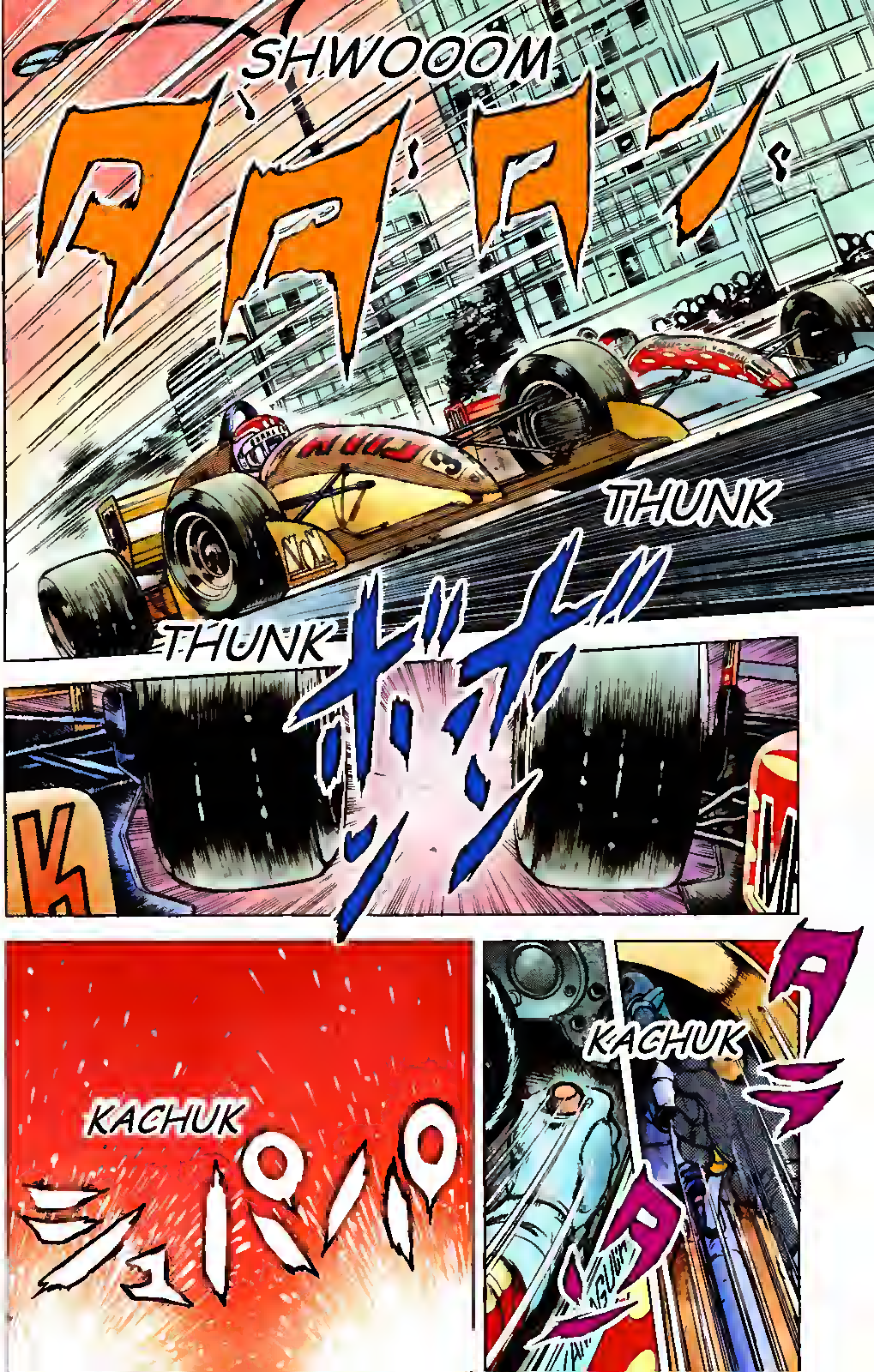

AKAGI
OTOYA
WOOSH




!?

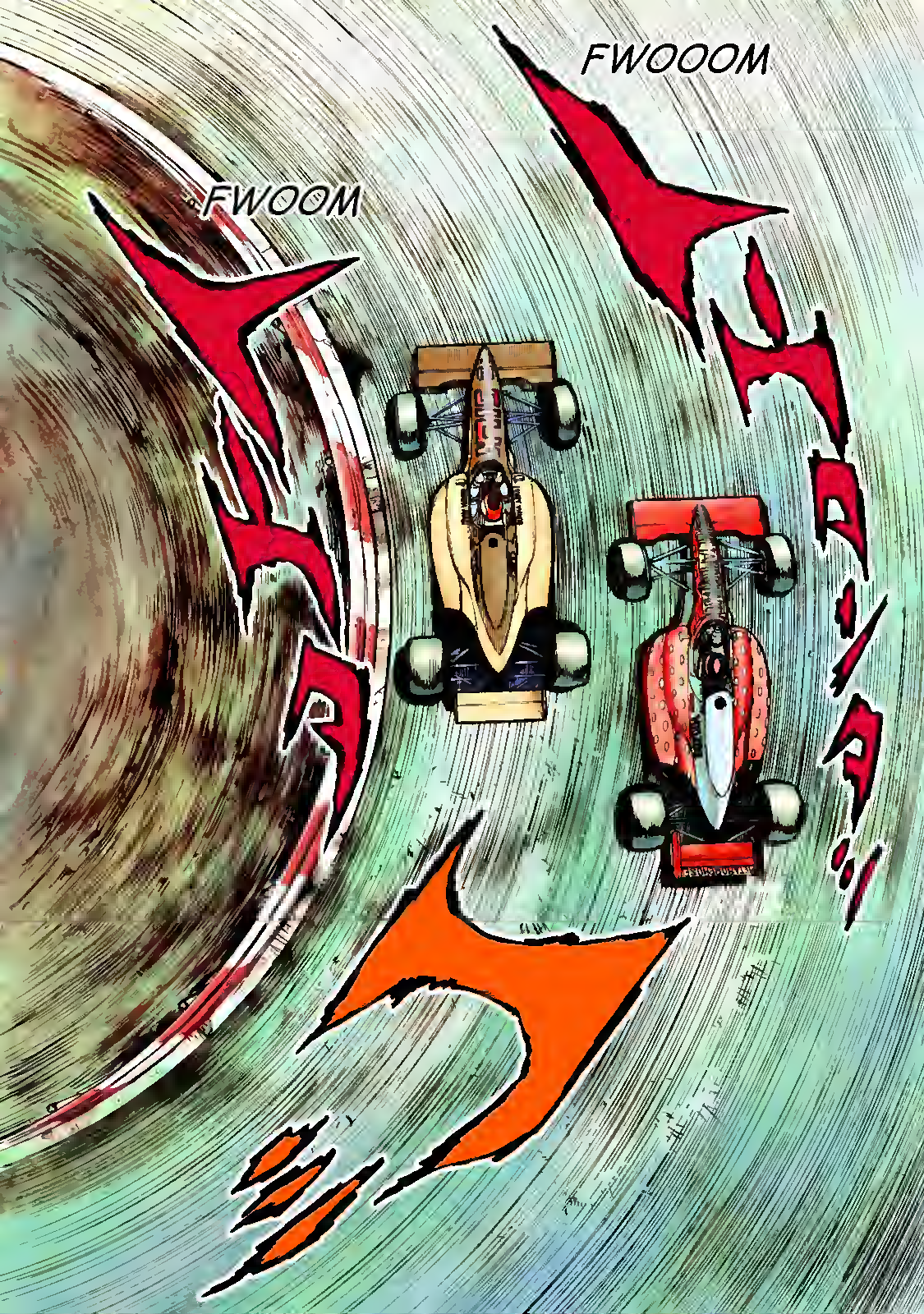
An intense stand-off between fellow Japanese racers!
Wow! Otoya Yamaguchi and Gunma Akagi find themselves side by side once again!

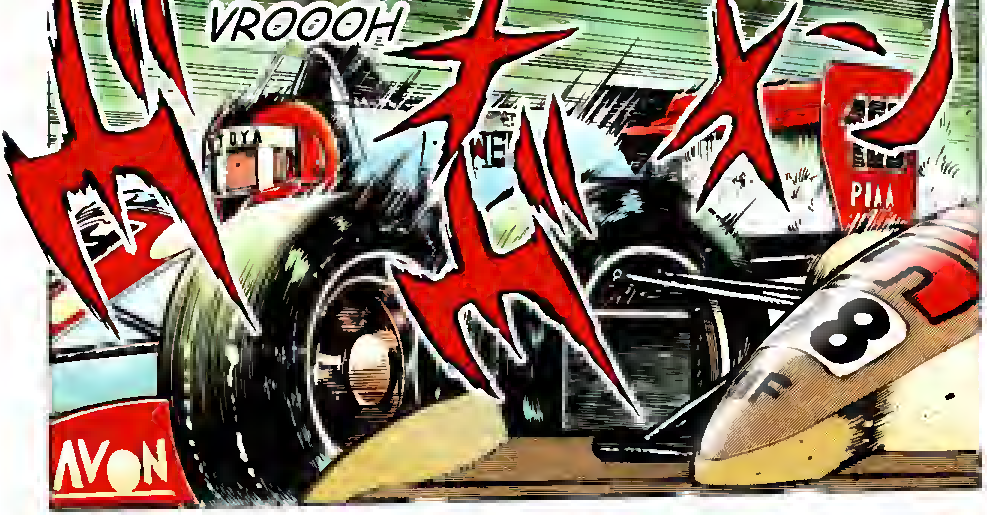
Keep your cool, Gunma! The race only just started!
Tsk. It's like this guy's my shadow.
Don't worry about it.
I AM keeping my cool.
...are gonna have to waltz for a while!
Guess me and the Yamaguchi kid...
SHOOM
ZOOM
Until we burn off our fuel...
...and lighten up a little!

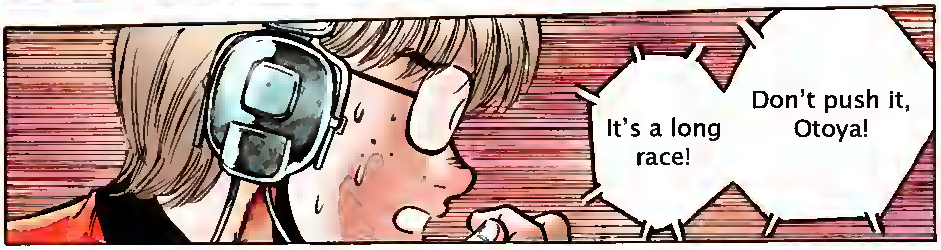

SHWOOOM
ブーン
THUNK
THUNK
KACHUK
KACHUK

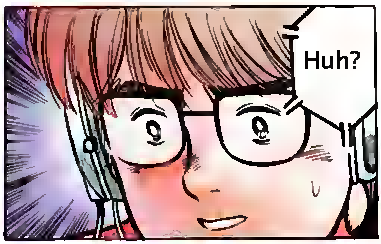
SPARK
38
HELIOS
METAMORPHOSE
AVON

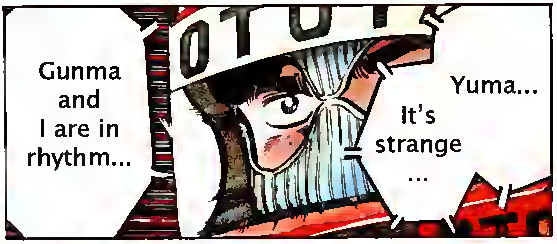
Well, yeah.
Did his head clear up or some-thing?
Gunma's on top of his game!
The race only just started, but he's riding smooth!
Did he forget how he crashed and almost died on this circuit last year?
Heh, a waltz, huh?
With Junko and Peabow back at his side, he's at peace.
...with Otoya glued to his side!
It's like enjoying himself...
VROOM!!

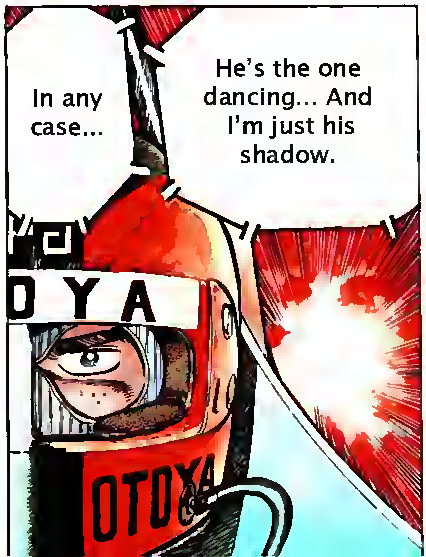

FWOOOM
FWOOM


VROOOH
AVON
PIAA


It's a long race!
Don't push it, Otoya!

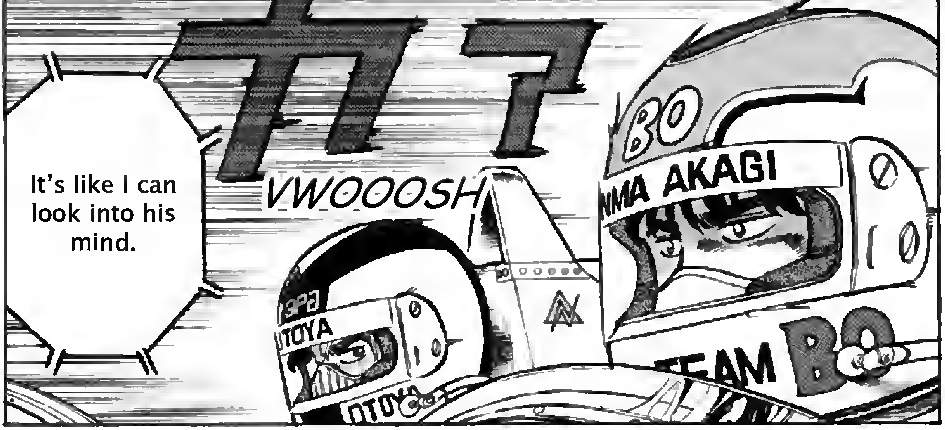

Huh?

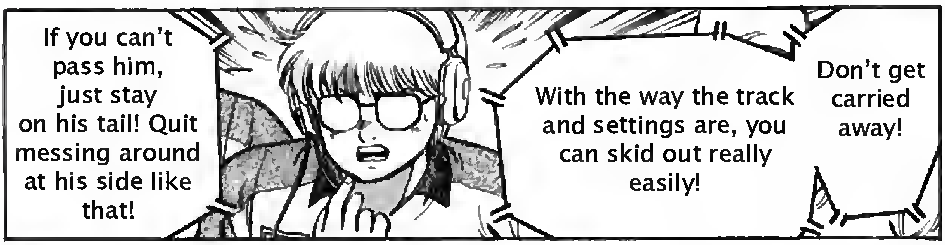

Gunma and I are in rhythm...
Yuma... It's strange ...

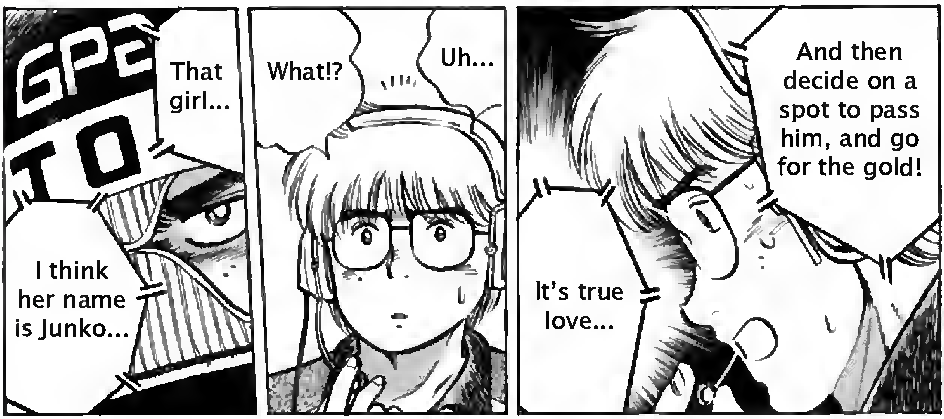

In any case...
He's the one dancing... And I'm just his shadow.
OTOYA

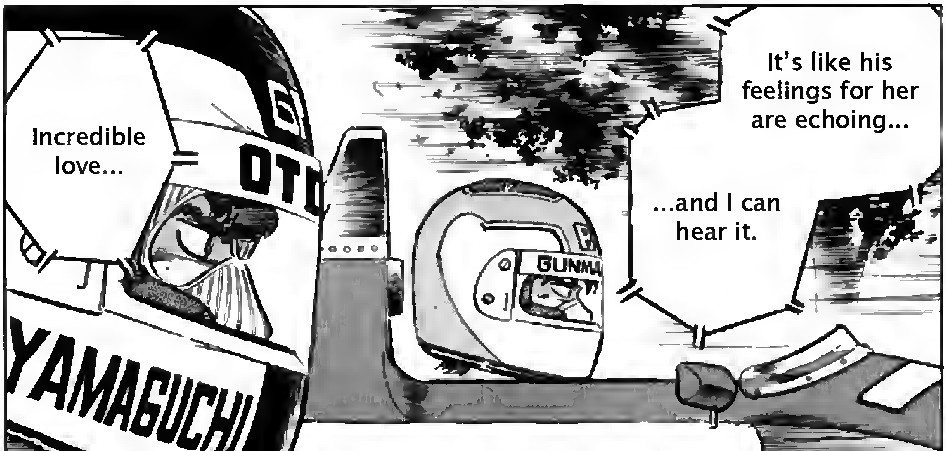
No, I think it's just...

It's like the two of us are dancing...
OTOYA

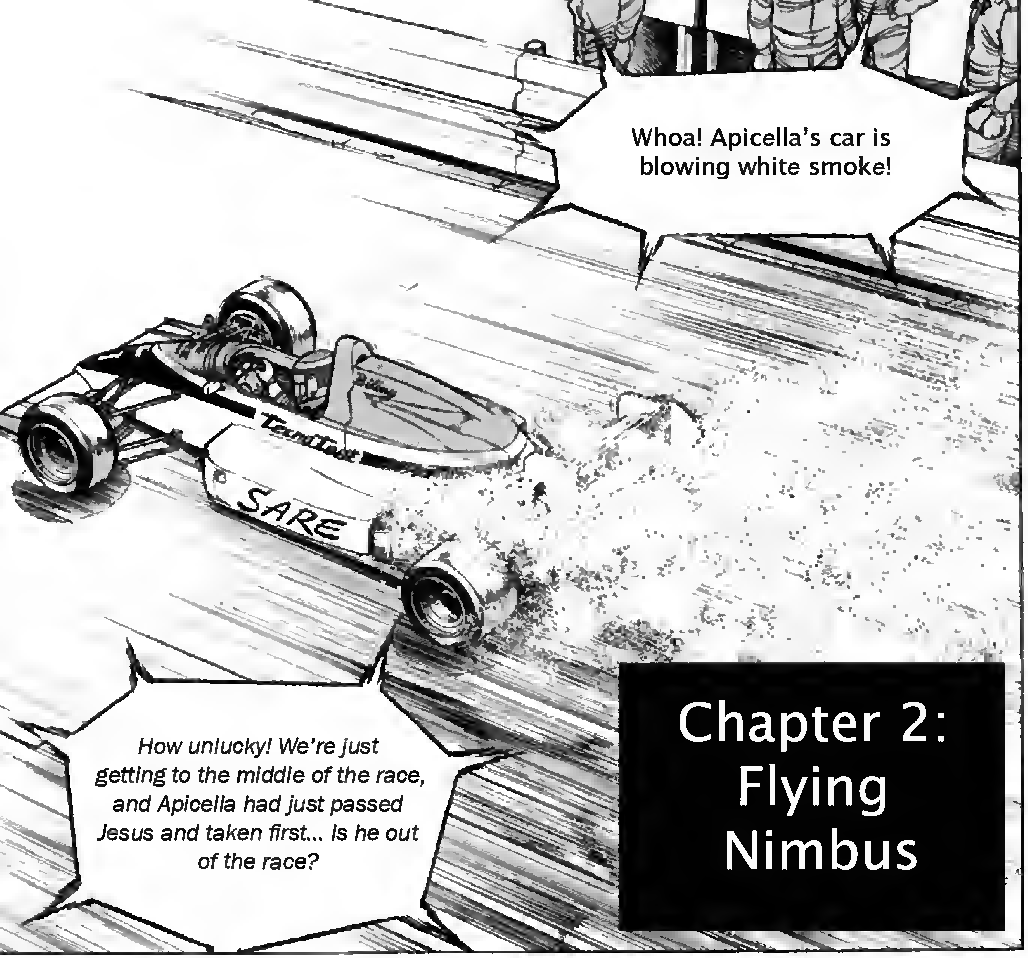

It's like I can look into his mind.
VWOOOSH
AKAGI
TEAM


If you can't pass him, just stay on his tail! Quit messing around at his side like that!
With the way the track and settings are, you can skid out really easily!
Don't get carried away!

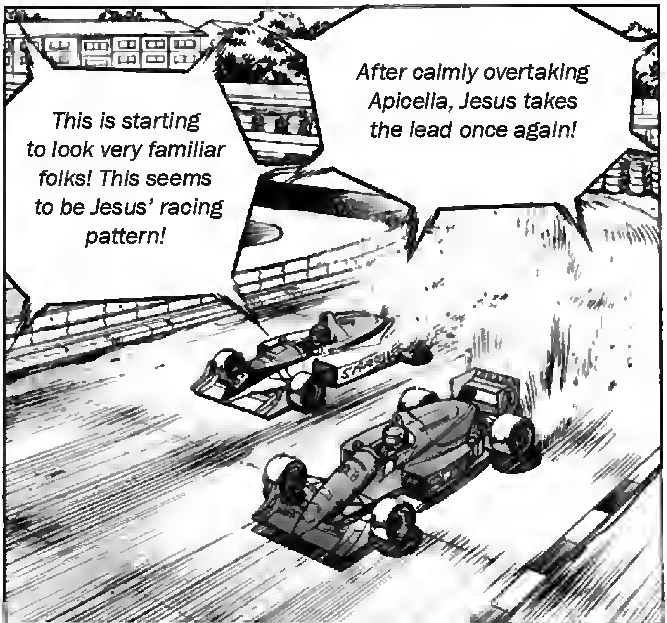

That girl...
I think her name is Junko...
What!?
Uh...
And then decide on a spot to pass him, and go for the gold!
It's true love...


Incredible love...
It's like his feelings for her are echoing...
...and I can hear it.
YAMAGUCHI

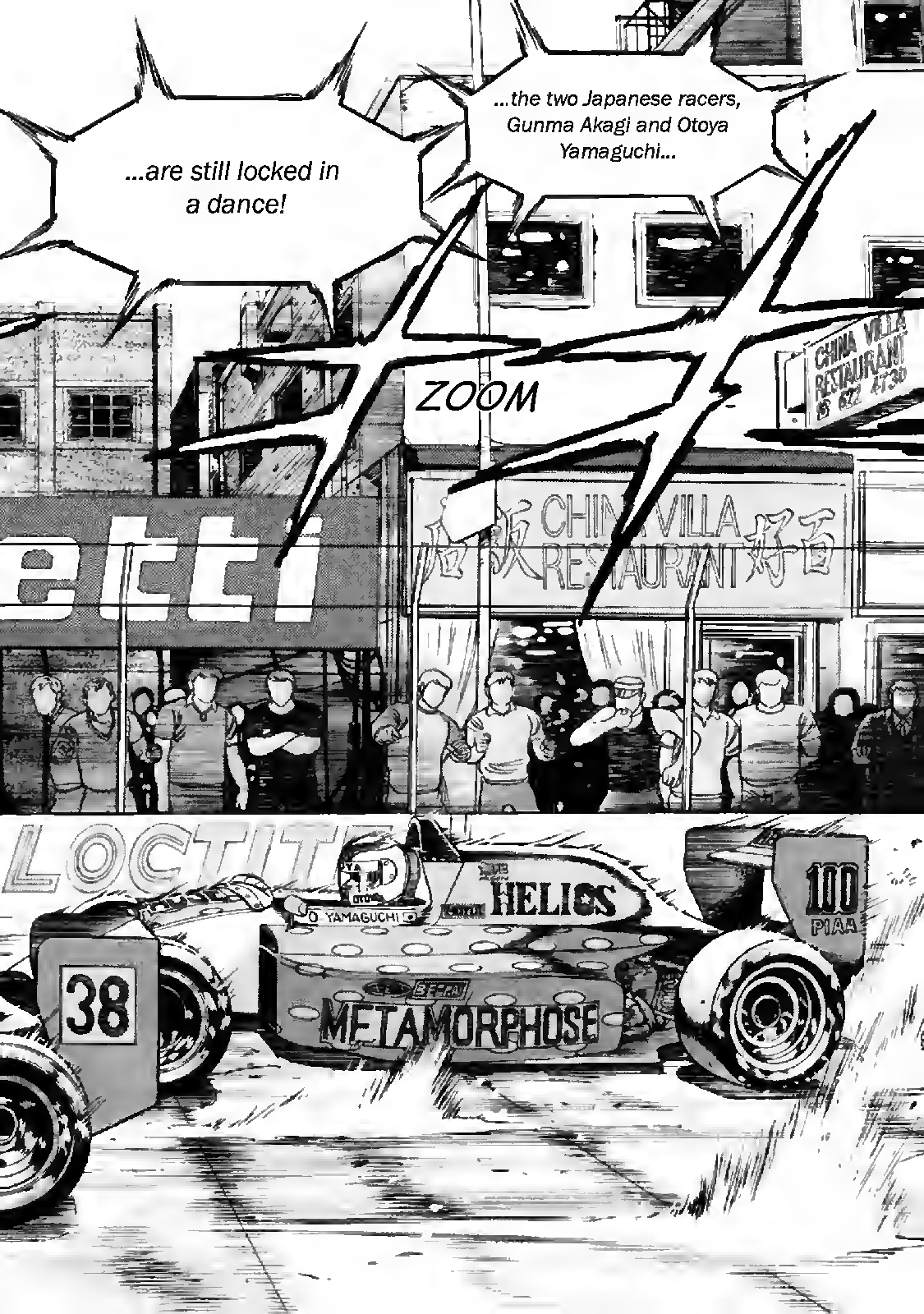
GUNMA AKAGI
TOYA
Like it's getting passed on to me.
I can't help it...
Man... It's contagious.
Otoya... What are you...?
O...
SHING
TEA
BO


Whoa! Apicella's car is blowing white smoke!
SARE
How unlucky! We're just getting to the middle of the race, and Apicella had just passed Jesus and taken first... Is he out of the race?
Chapter 2: Flying Nimbus

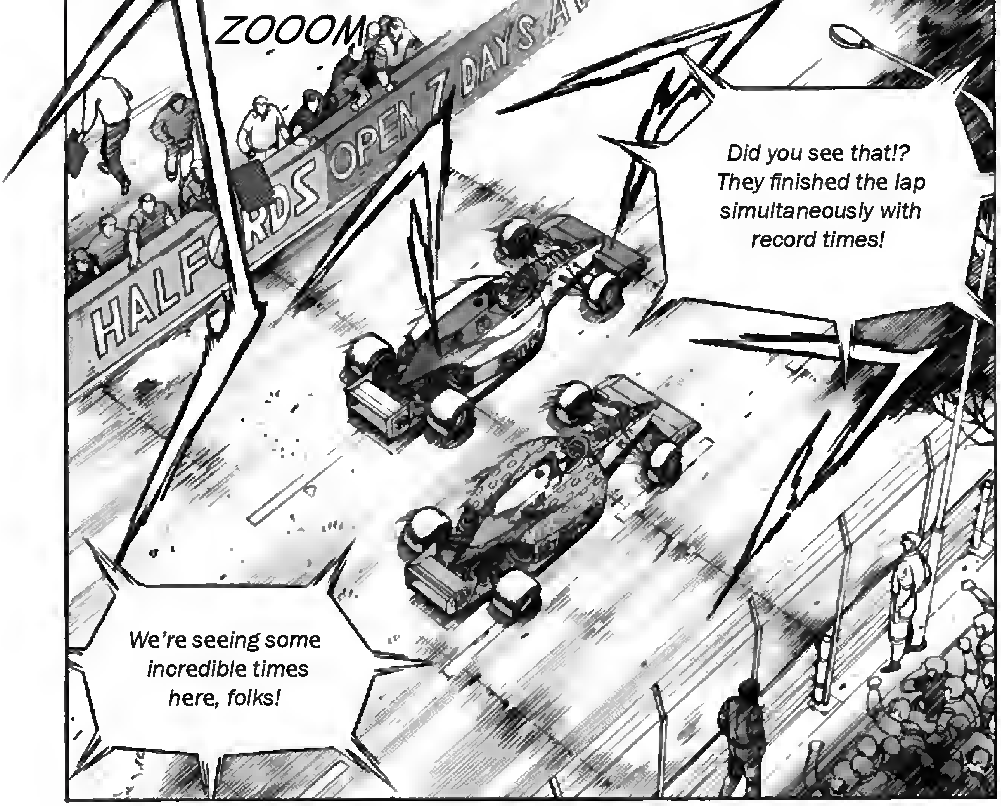
Meanwhile...

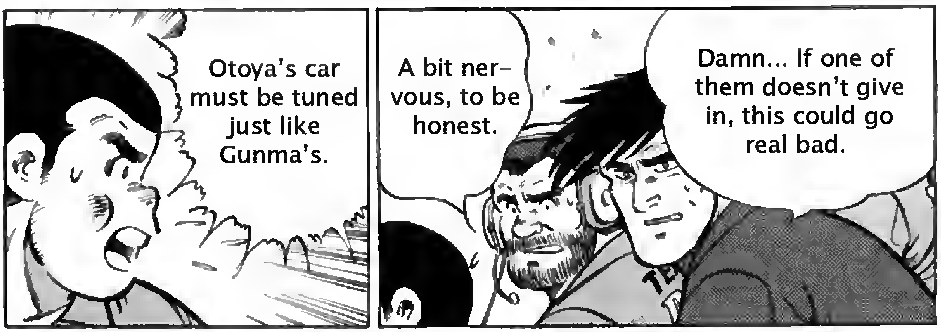

This is starting to look very familiar folks! This seems to be Jesus' racing pattern!
After calmly overtaking Apicella, Jesus takes the lead once again!

VAROOM
...are still locked in a dance!
...the two Japanese racers, Gunma Akagi and Otoya Yamaguchi...
ZOOM
Chapter 2:
Flying Nimbus
YUNNAN
olivetti
FERODO
LOCTITE
TEAM BO
GUNMA AKAGI
SILK
38
YAMAGUCHI
HELIOS
METAMORPHOSE
100
PIAA


...are still locked in a dance!
...the two Japanese racers, Gunma Akagi and Otoya Yamaguchi...
ZOOM
CHINA VILLA RESTAURANT
LOCTITE
YAMAGUCHI
HELICS
38
METAMORPHOSE
100
PIAA

Chapter 2: Flying Nimbus


ZOOOM
HALF
OPEN 7 DAYS
Did you see that!? They finished the lap simultaneously with record times!
We're seeing some incredible times here, folks!

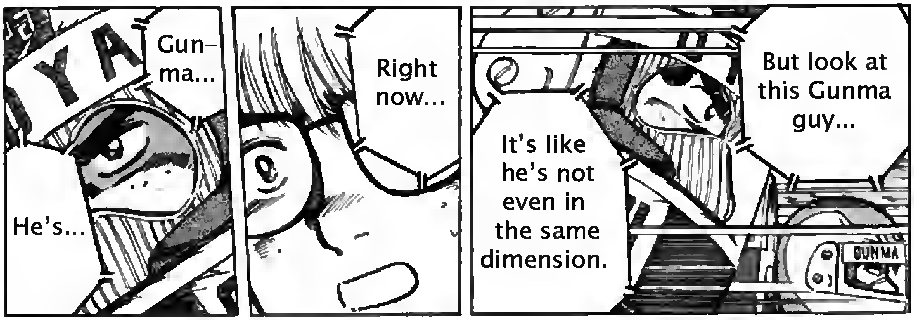

Otoya's car must be tuned just like Gunma's.
A bit ner- vous, to be honest.
Damn... If one of them doesn't give in, this could go real bad.

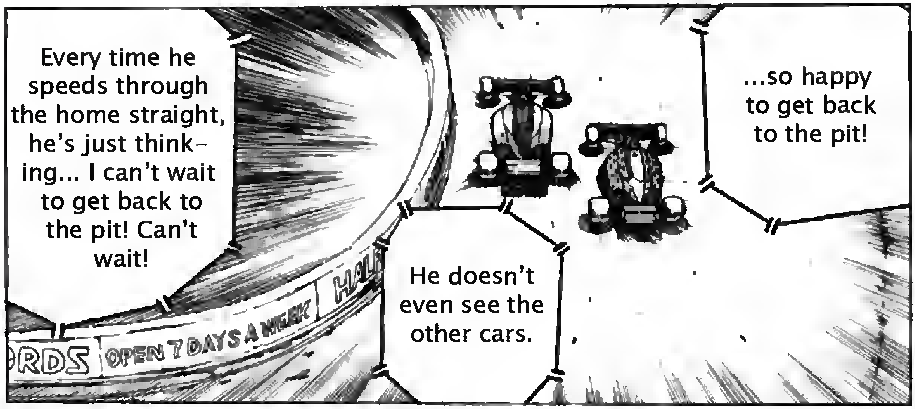
We've still got a long way to go. He can put pressure on him from behind and...
Should we tell him to slow down?
They're risking it with the corners.
They're going for the straights. They lay the wing down to minimize downforce.

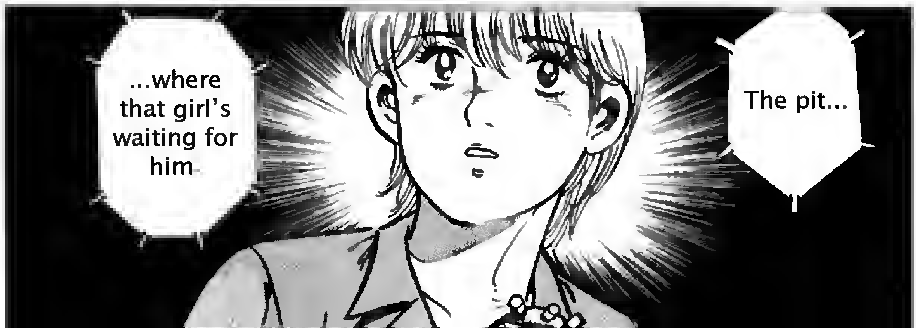
The man in the zone doesn't need to adjust their pace. Otoya's the one who should be worried!
It's not about his personality or anything. I'm saying he's in his zone.
If his car's tuned the same way like Tamotsu says, he's in a real danger.
I guess not... This is Gunma we're talking about.
It's no use. He won't go for it.
No. What I mean is...
If anyone's flyin' off the tracks, it's Otoya!
He's getting dragged by Gunma, going at a faster speed than he can handle.
VROOOH
BAM
BAM
POP
POP

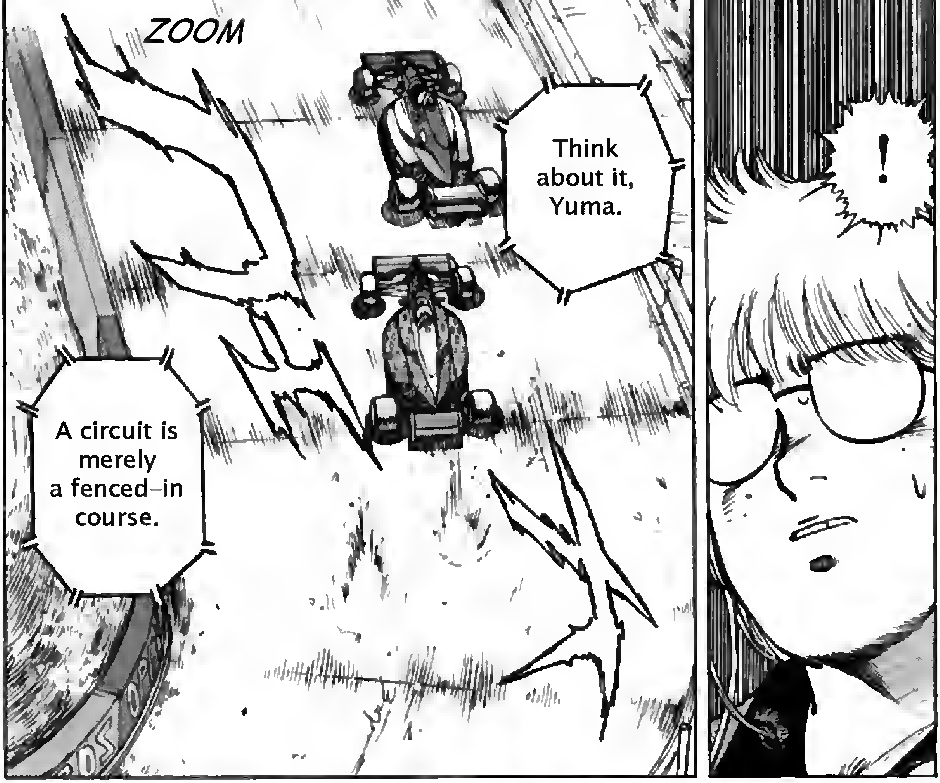
Heh...
O.YAMAGUCHI
AKAGI
TEAM
Otoya! Drop your speed!
Don't you know your own average speed!?
Heh heh heh heh...
Heh...
Heh heh...
So this is what happiness feels like, huh?
TOY
Man, I'm in a bit of a bind here, Yuma.
Otoya ...!?
Hey...
...that racing's just about who's faster on the track.
...I've always thought ...
Up until just now...
Wh...what the hell are you talking about!

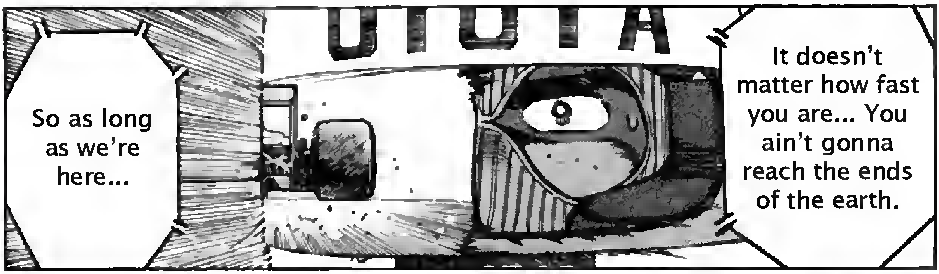
I didn't think there was much more to it.
...or get passed.
You either pass...
GUNMA AKAGI
TYKYA


YA
Gun-ma...
He's...
Right now...
It's like he's not even in the same dimension.
But look at this Gunma guy...
GUNMA

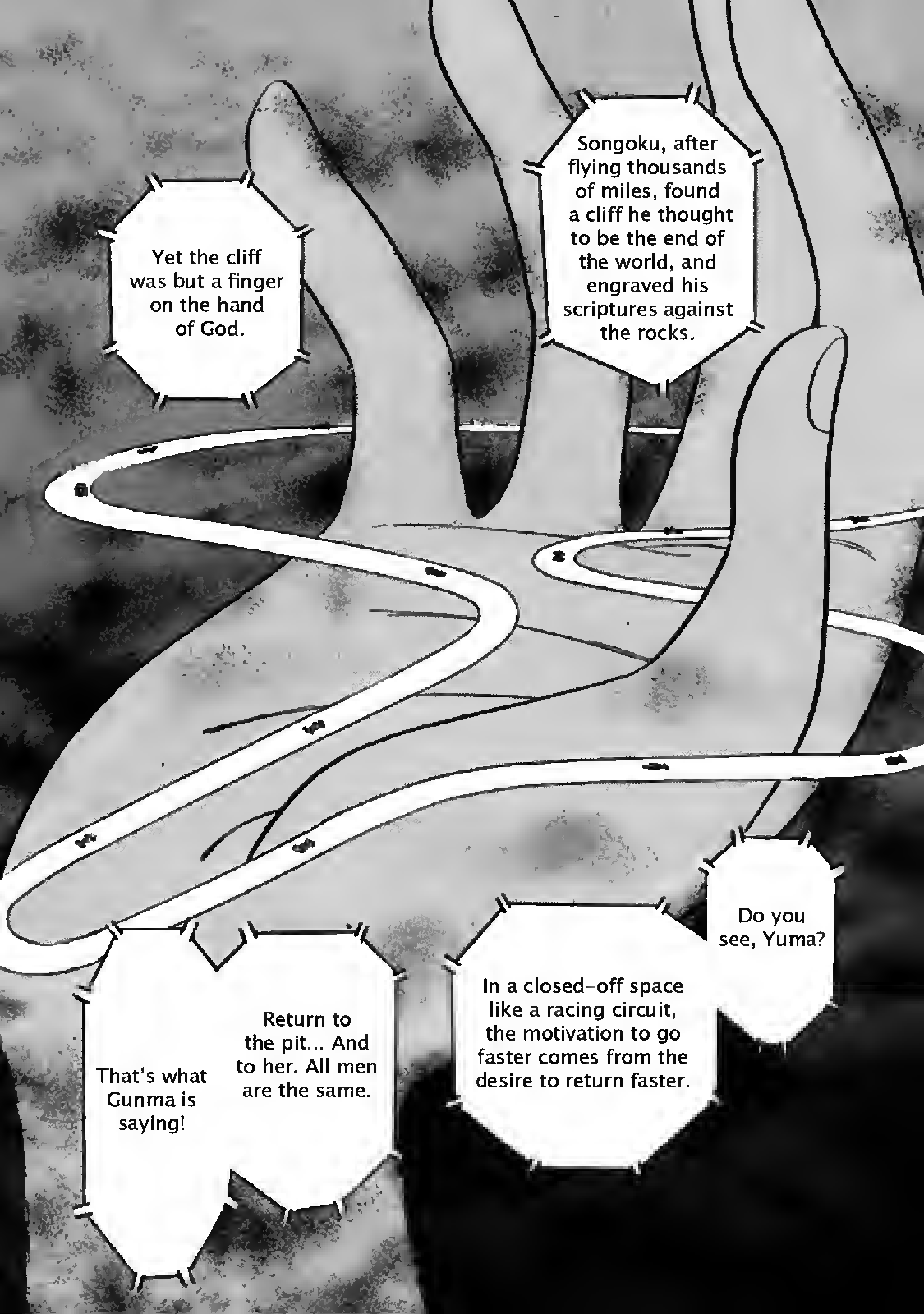

Every time he speeds through the home straight, he's just think-ing... I can't wait to get back to the pit! Can't wait!
He doesn't even see the other cars.
...so happy to get back to the pit!
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK


...where that girl's waiting for him-
The pit...

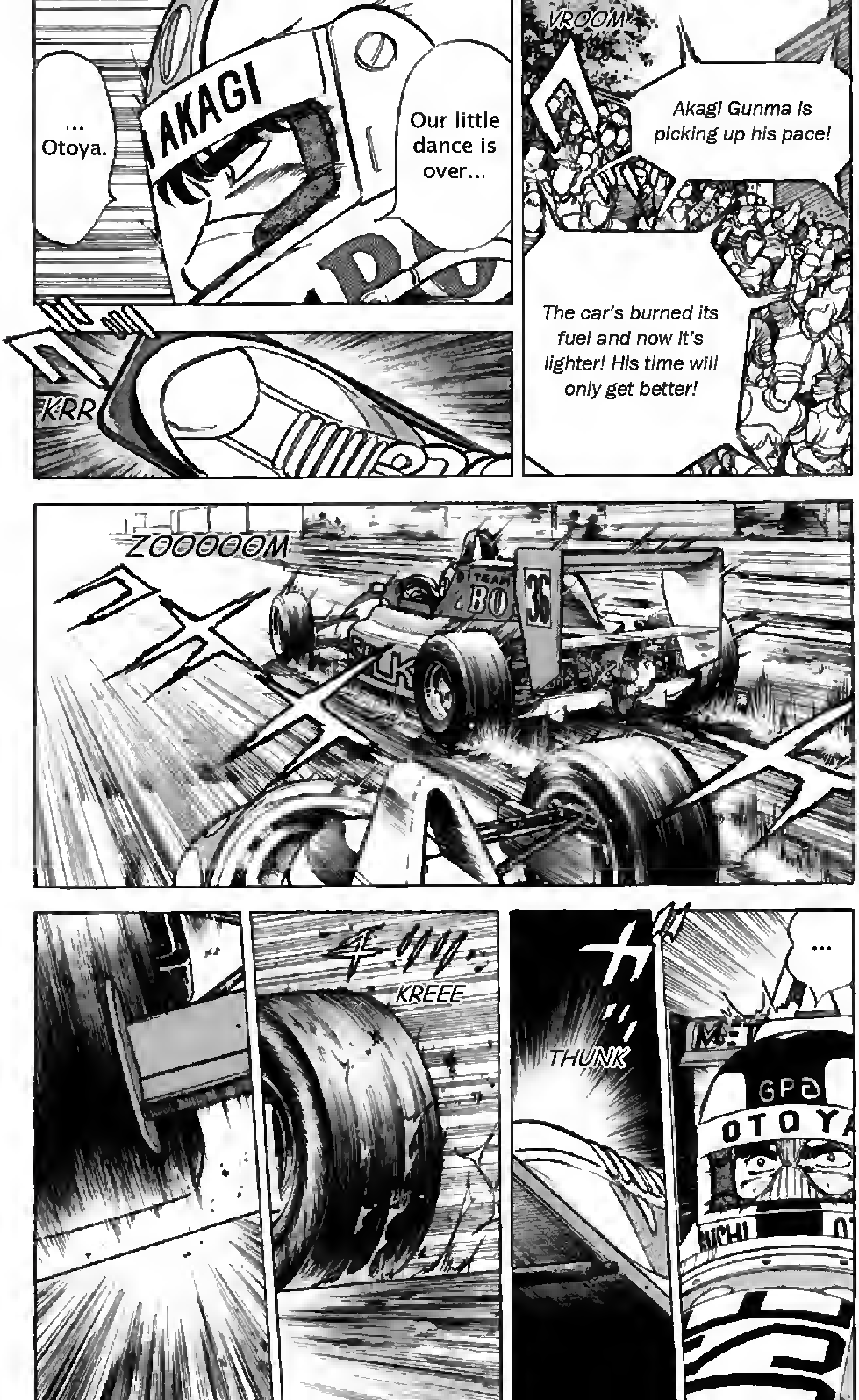

ZOOM
Think about it, Yuma.
A circuit is merely a fenced-in course.
!

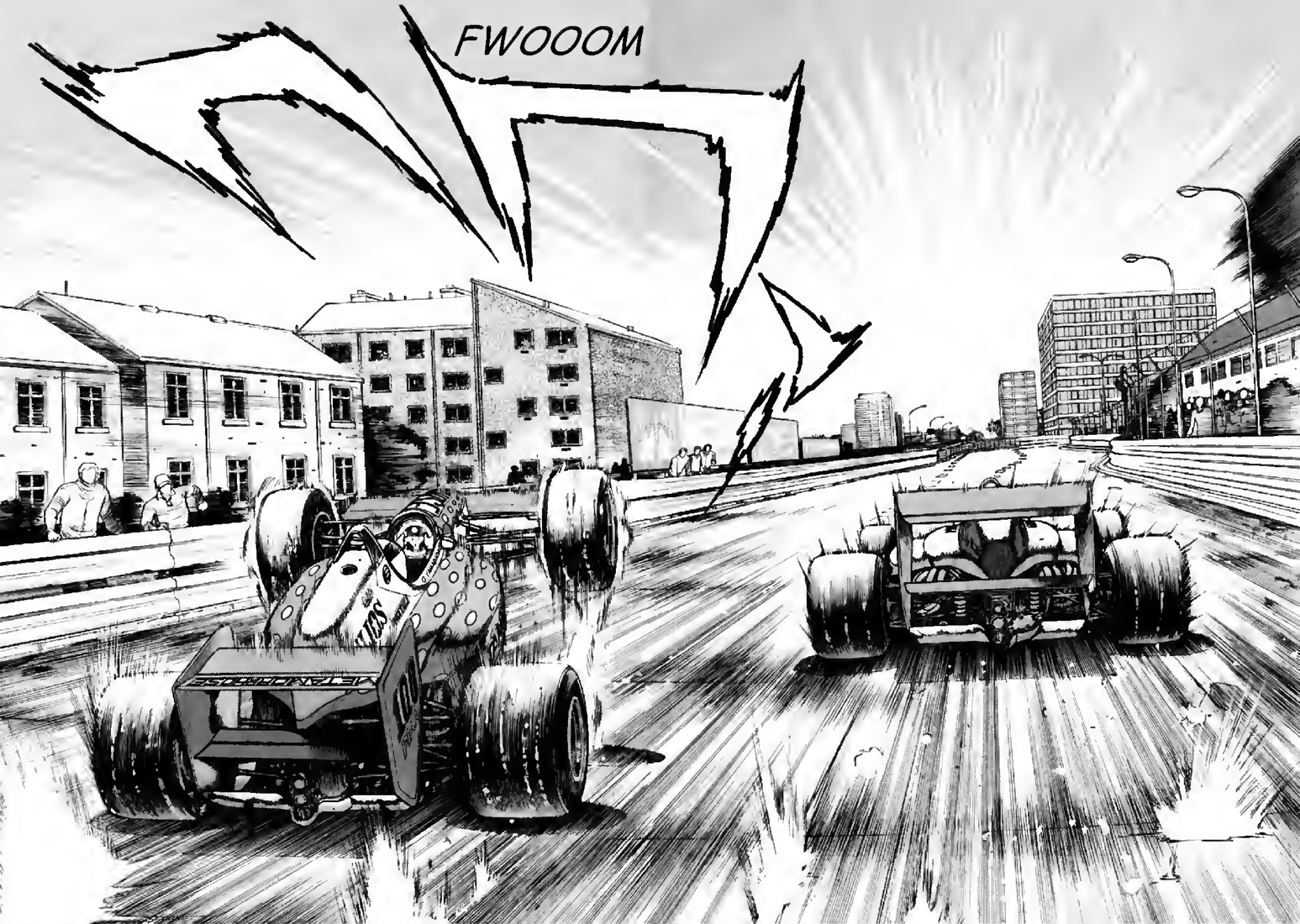

So as long as we're here...
It doesn't matter how fast you are... You ain't gonna reach the ends of the earth.

BRAAAH
...we're basically just like Songoku on his Flying Nimbus!
...all of us, drivers...


Songoku, after flying thousands of miles, found a cliff he thought to be the end of the world, and engraved his scriptures against the rocks.
Yet the cliff was but a finger on the hand of God.
Do you see, Yuma?
In a closed-off space like a racing circuit, the motivation to go faster comes from the desire to return faster.
Return to the pit... And to her. All men are the same.
That's what Gunma is saying!

Heh ...
Junko is mine...
Are you listening to me!?
OYA
Snap out of it, Otoya! Get your head in the game!
You're too close to Gunma! Put some distance in between you two!
METAMORPHOSE
You're my woman now.
You...
Junko ...
OTOYA
VROO
YAMA
Grab the board! Tell him to drop his speed!
He's going out of his mind!
Gunma's desires are just getting passed on to you!
Cut the crap! She's not your woman!
That's not it.
OYA
No...
OTOYA

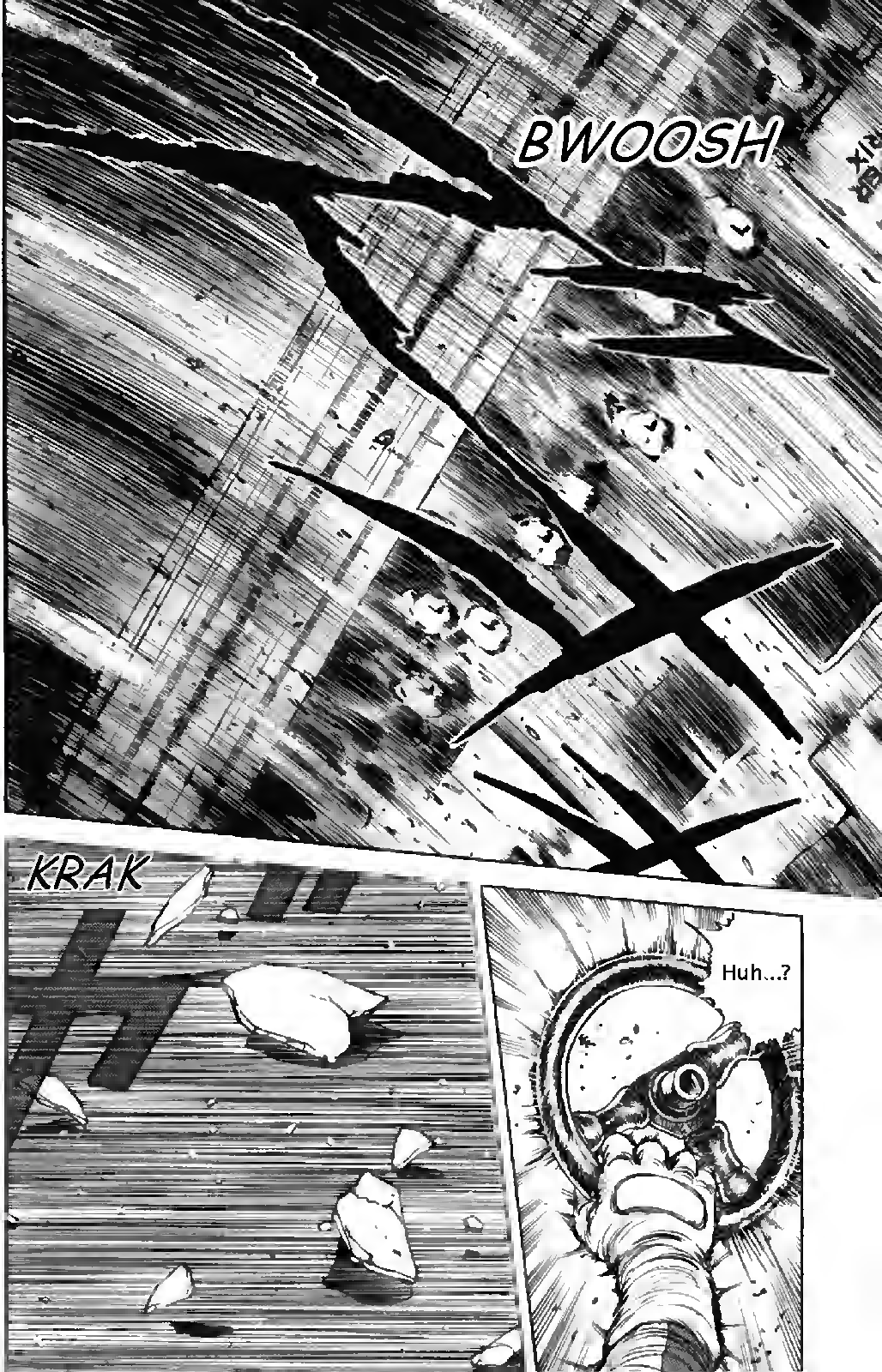

AKAGI
... Otoya.
Our little dance is over...
KRR
VROOM!
Akagi Gunma is picking up his pace!
The car's burned its fuel and now it's lighter! His time will only get better!
ZOOOOOM
TEAM
BO
36
KREEE
THUNK
...
GPA
OTOYA


FWOOOM

FWOOOM

Whoa!
CHIK

GERBASHHH
KRRSSH
FWOO
SCREEECH


BWOOSH
KRAK
Huh...?

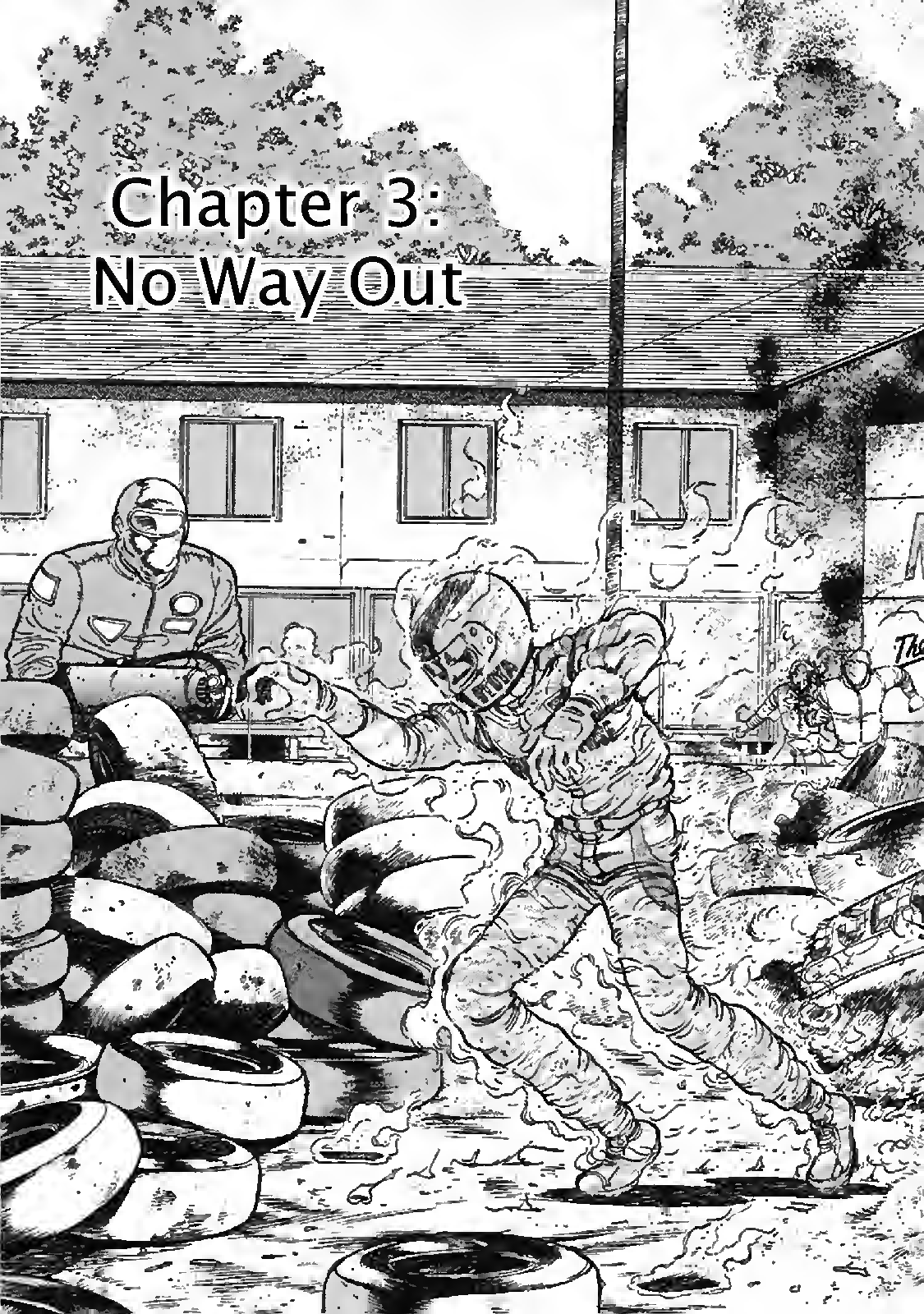
BAM
OTOYA
Grand-ma...!?
Otoya!

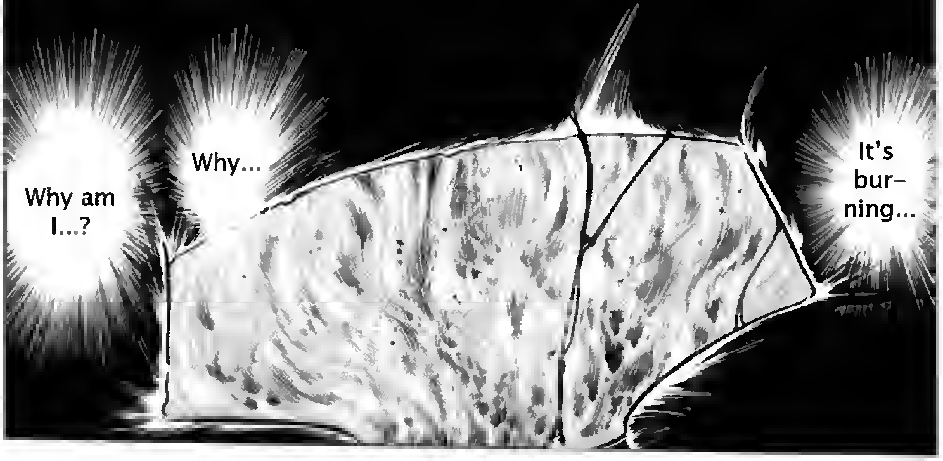
Fire! Flames are engulfing the cockpit!
OTOYA
A crash! There's been a major crash, folks!
Yamaguchi isn't coming out! What's happening down there!?
Otoya Yamaguchi went too fast and launched his car in the air! That was a horrible crash!

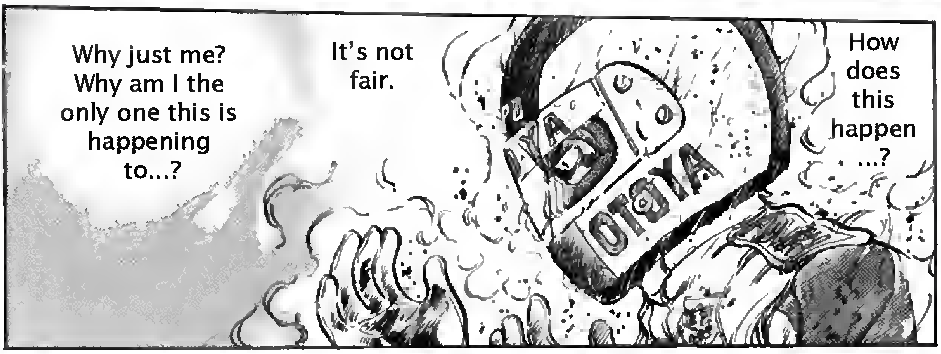
Chapter 3:
No Way Out
He... He's on fire!
He managed to squeeze out of the cockpit by himself, but now he's enveloped in bright red flames...
Put it out! Extinguish the fire! What's going on!? Hurry!

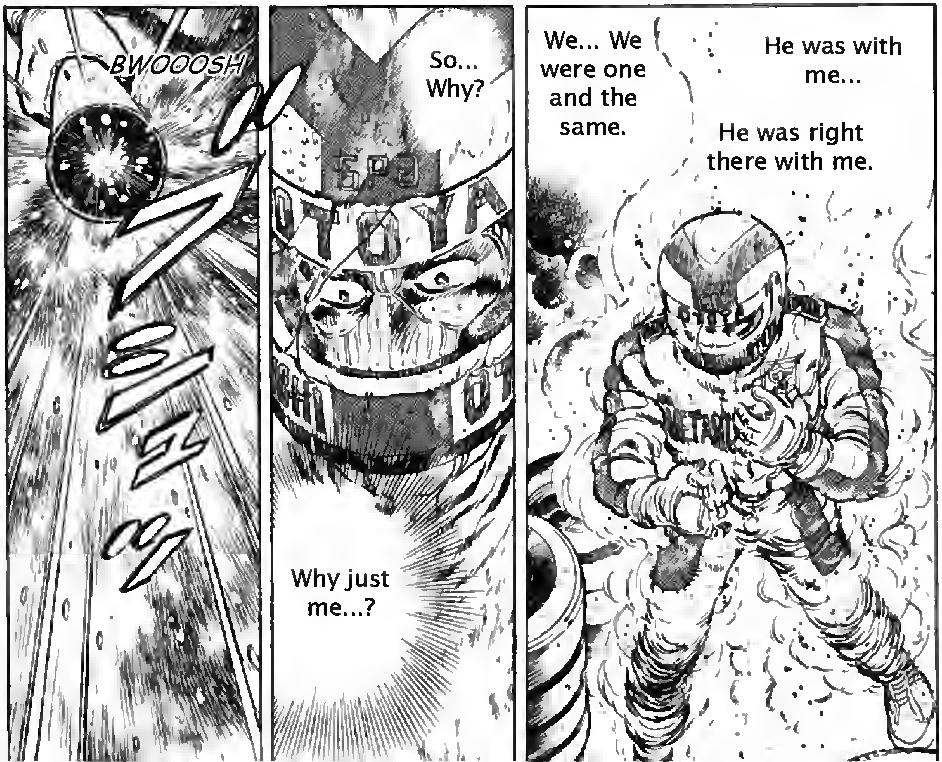
Chapter 3:
No Way Out
FERODO

FERODO
ENGINE PROTECTOR

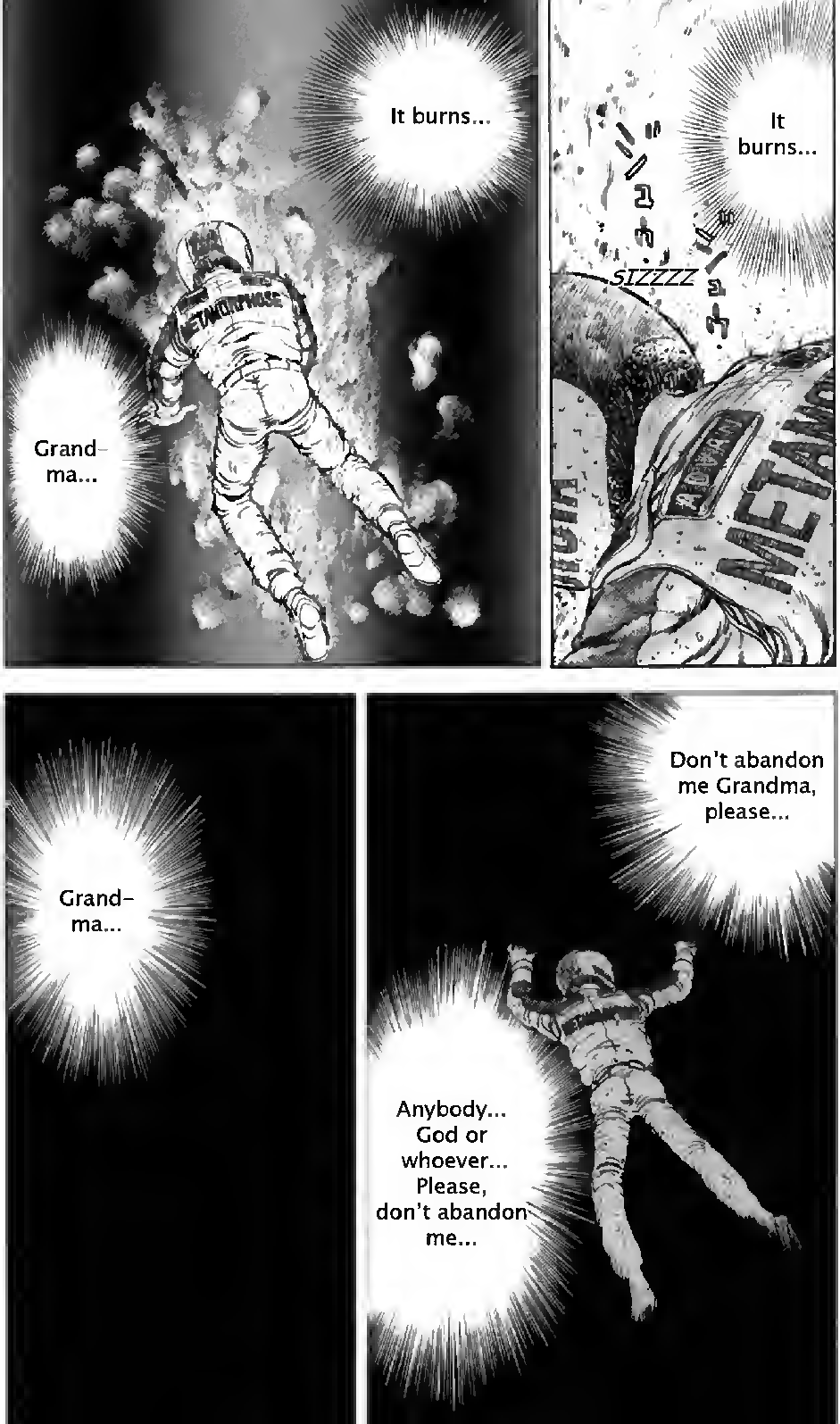

Chapter 3:
No Way Out


Why am I...?
Why...
It's bur-ning...

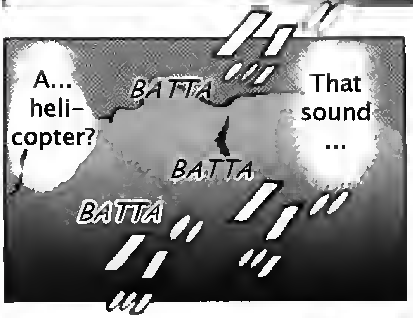

Why just me? Why am I the only one this is happening to...?
It's not fair.
How does this happen ...?


BWOOOSH
So... Why?
Why just me...?
We... We were one and the same.
He was with me...
He was right there with me.

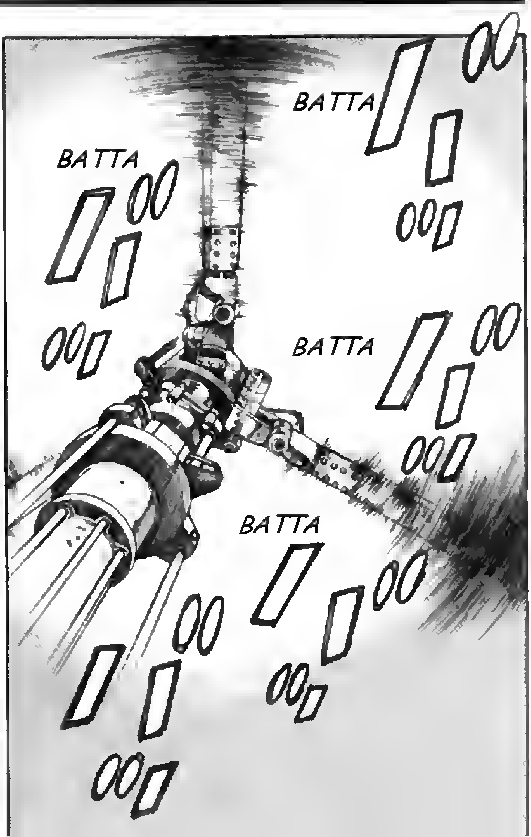
Your eyes! Close your eyes, dammit!
What the hell are you doing!?
Wha...
You wanna get 'em fried!?
My eyes...!?
PSHOOO
Why... only me...?
N...no! Are you just gonna leave me here!?
FWOOSH.
Ah...

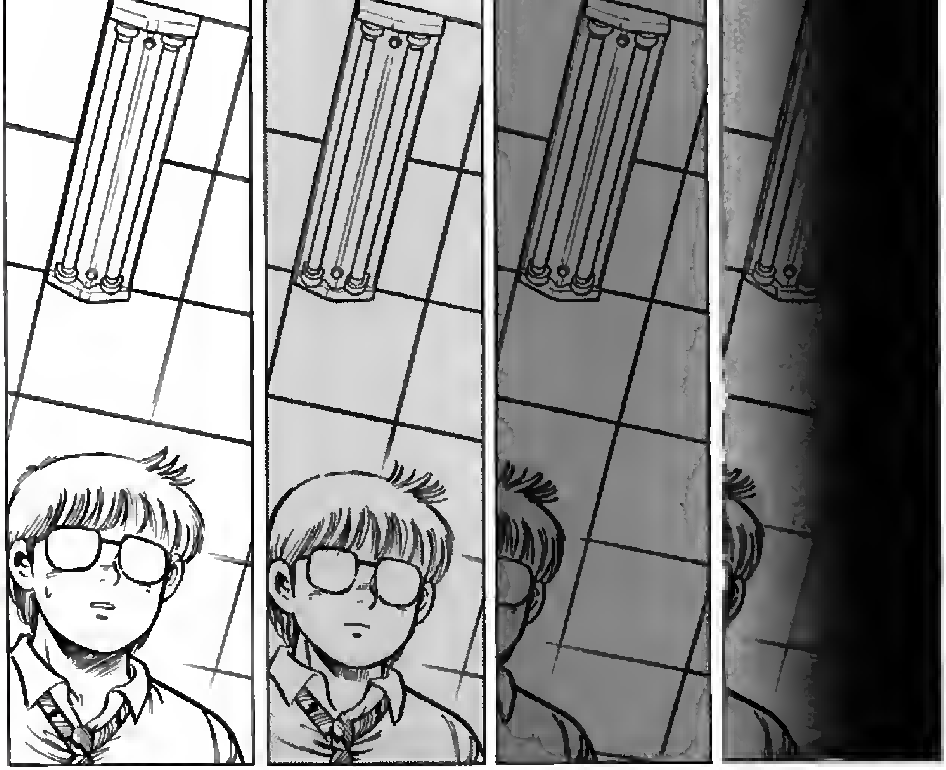

It burns...
Grand-
ma...
It
burns...
SIZZZZ
Grand-
ma...
Don't abandon
me Grandma,
please...
Anybody...
God or
whoever...
Please,
don't abandon
me...

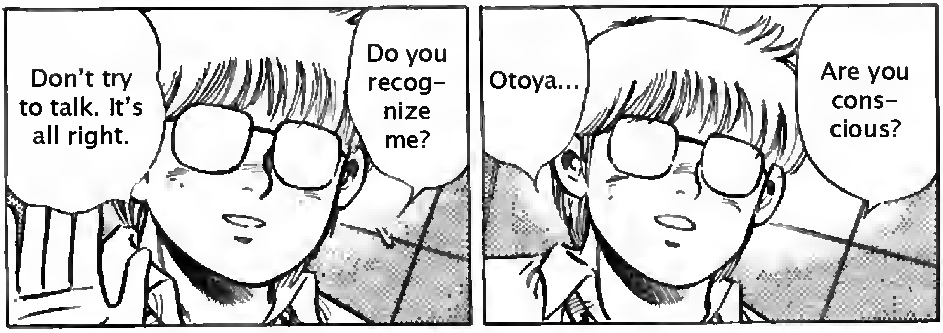
BATTA
BATTA
BATTA
BATTA


A... heli-copter?
BATTA
That sound ...
BATTA
BATTA

...that's how you get to the after-life these days.
Maybe...
On a helicopter.
BATTA


BATTA
BATTA
BATTA
BATTA

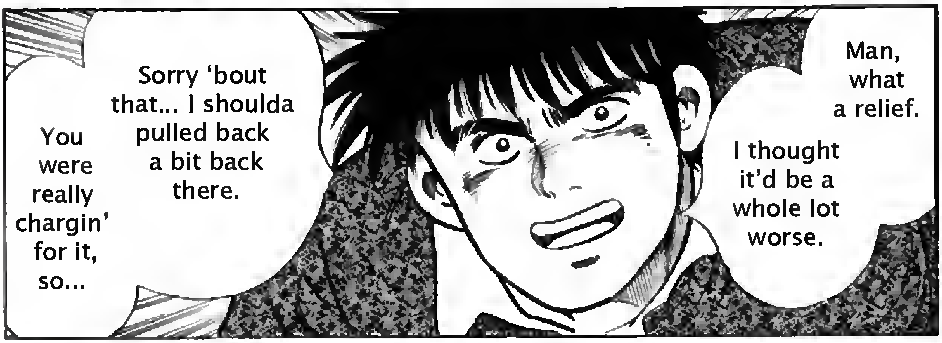


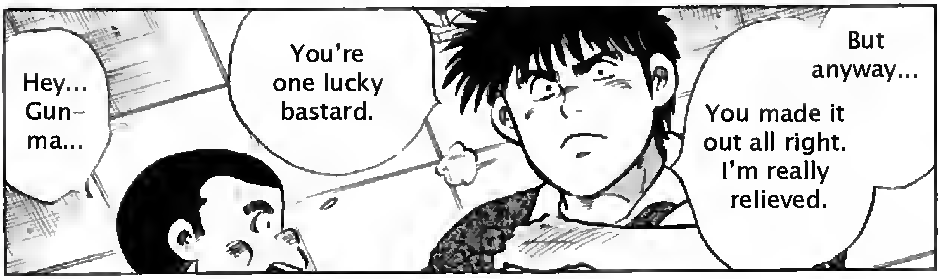

Don't try to talk. It's all right.
Do you recog-nize me?
Otoya...
Are you cons-cious?

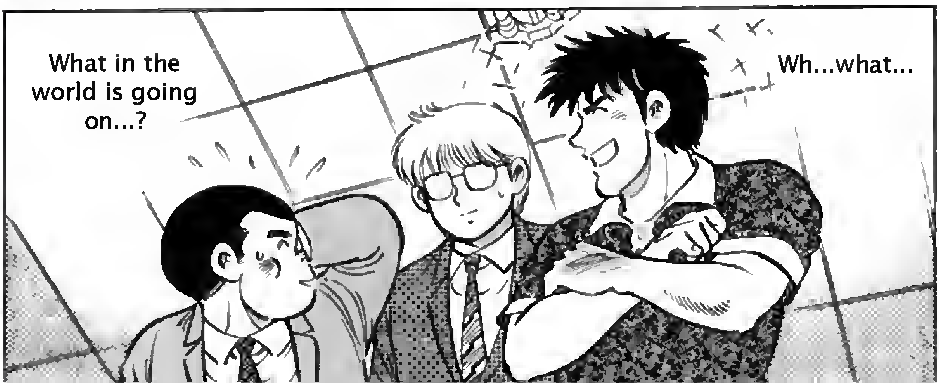
Got it?
Don't worry. Everything's gonna be all right.
Get the doctor!

You'll be better in no time.
You did get quite a burn.
But it's not too bad.
Are you in pain?
You don't worry about a thing.
Back...
Let's go back to Japan, Otoya.
...Japan.
...to...
...

...
I think he's conscious.

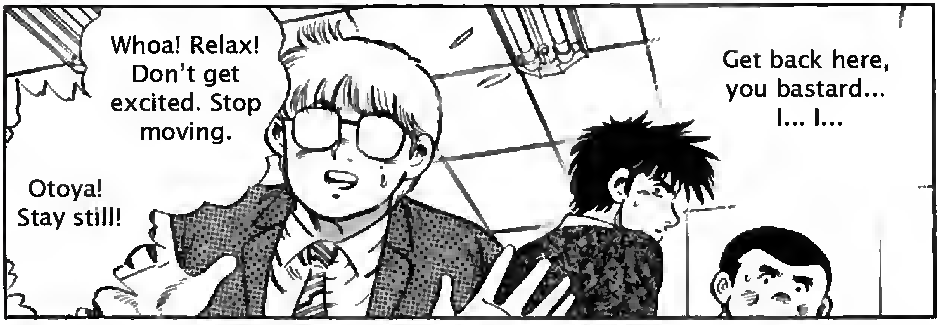

You were really chargin' for it, so...
Sorry 'bout that... I shoulda pulled back a bit back there.
Man, what a relief.
I thought it'd be a whole lot worse.


Hey... Gun-ma...
You're one lucky bastard.
But anyway...
You made it out all right. I'm really relieved.


What in the world is going on...?
Wh...what...

What happened to me...!?
What....

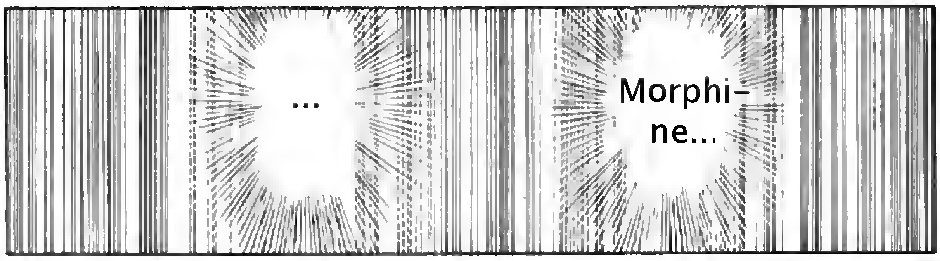
Gunma... Wait!
I'm lookin' forward to it.
Later, Otoya.
I'll see ya back on the track, all right?

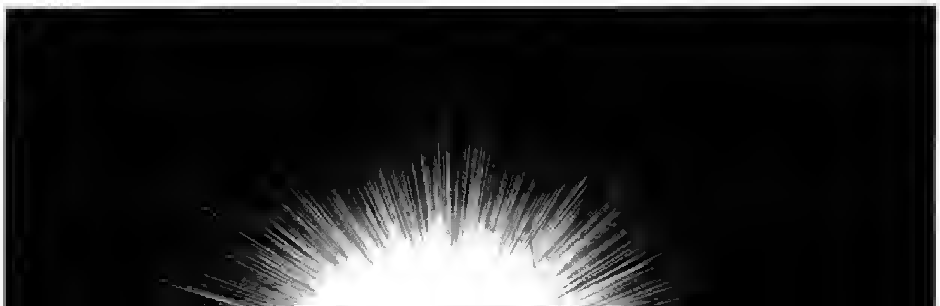

Whoa! Relax! Don't get excited. Stop moving.
Otoya! Stay still!
Get back here, you bastard... I... I...

Huh!?

Doctor! We need some morphine over here!

Is this... my hand?
Morphine ...!?
My... whole body feels like boiling syrup...


...
Morphi- ne...



The International F3000 Championship

国際F3000選手権編

バーミンガムGP大惨事

Tragedy at the Birmingham GP

ゴォ――――・・・

VEEEEEEH

Japanese Driver Otoya Yamaguchi Crashes

ジャパニーズドライバー オトヤ・ヤマグチ大クラッシュ

Engulfed in flames, suffering from severe burns

猛火に包まれ全身大火傷

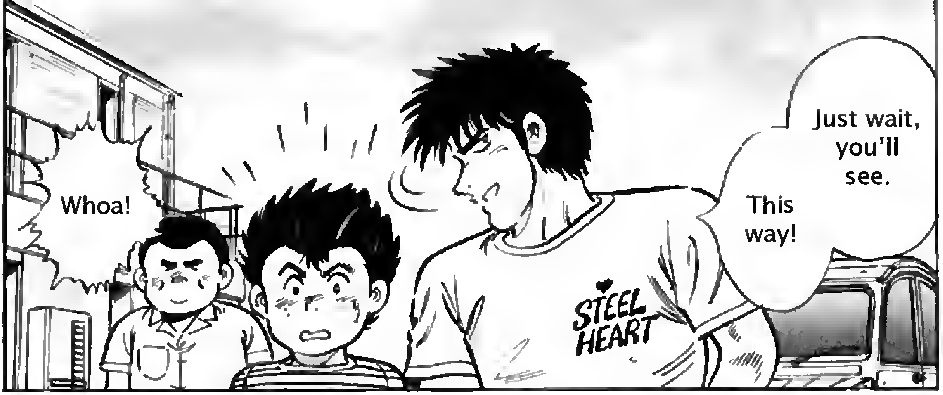
Yamaguchi returns to Japan for a repeat surgery after narrowly escaping death!

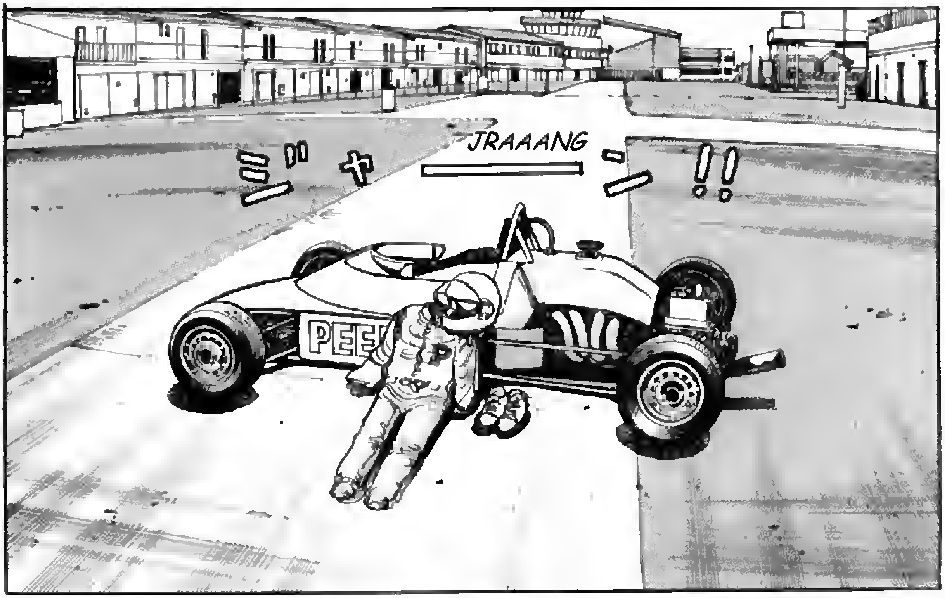
九死に一生を得、再手術の為帰国!

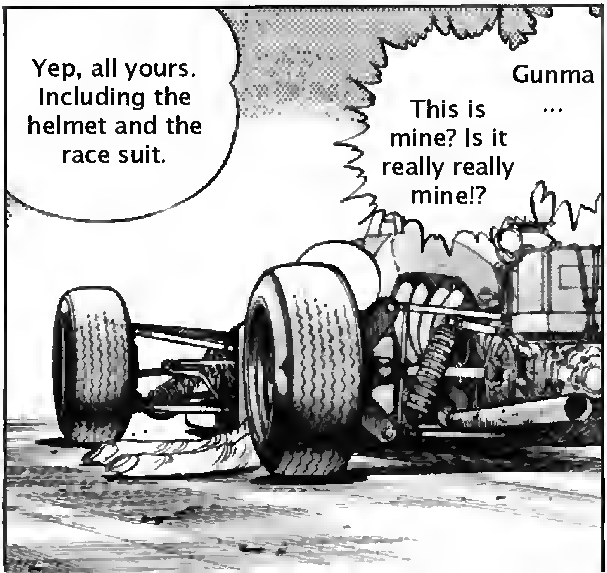
再起不能か!?

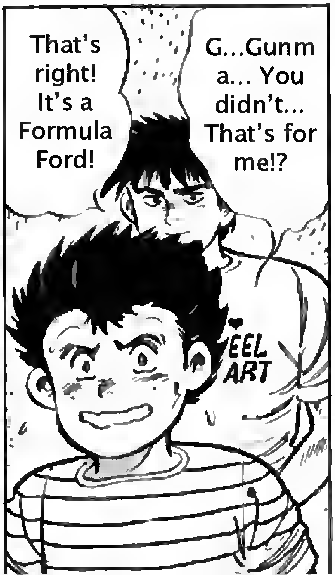
Is there hope for recovery?

Probably the most frightening thing for racers.
Fire can really mess you up.
BUMP
It'll take some time.
Is Otoya gonna be all right?
They said if he has skin transplant surgery, he'll pretty much be back to normal.
But I thought he was all right.
...you saw the bonfire and...
Zip it, Peabow!
That's just how terrifying fire is...
Yeah... I remember that one time...
His body might, but I'm talkin' about his mind.
C'mon, Gunma! Just tell me. What's my pre-sent!?
Wait a minute, this isn't Doning-ton!
Whatever. We're here, Peabow!
THUD
All right, well how about when you let Jesus drive way ahead of you, and you couldn't catch up and ended up finishing second? You remember that?
That's not what I'm talk-ing about, idiot.

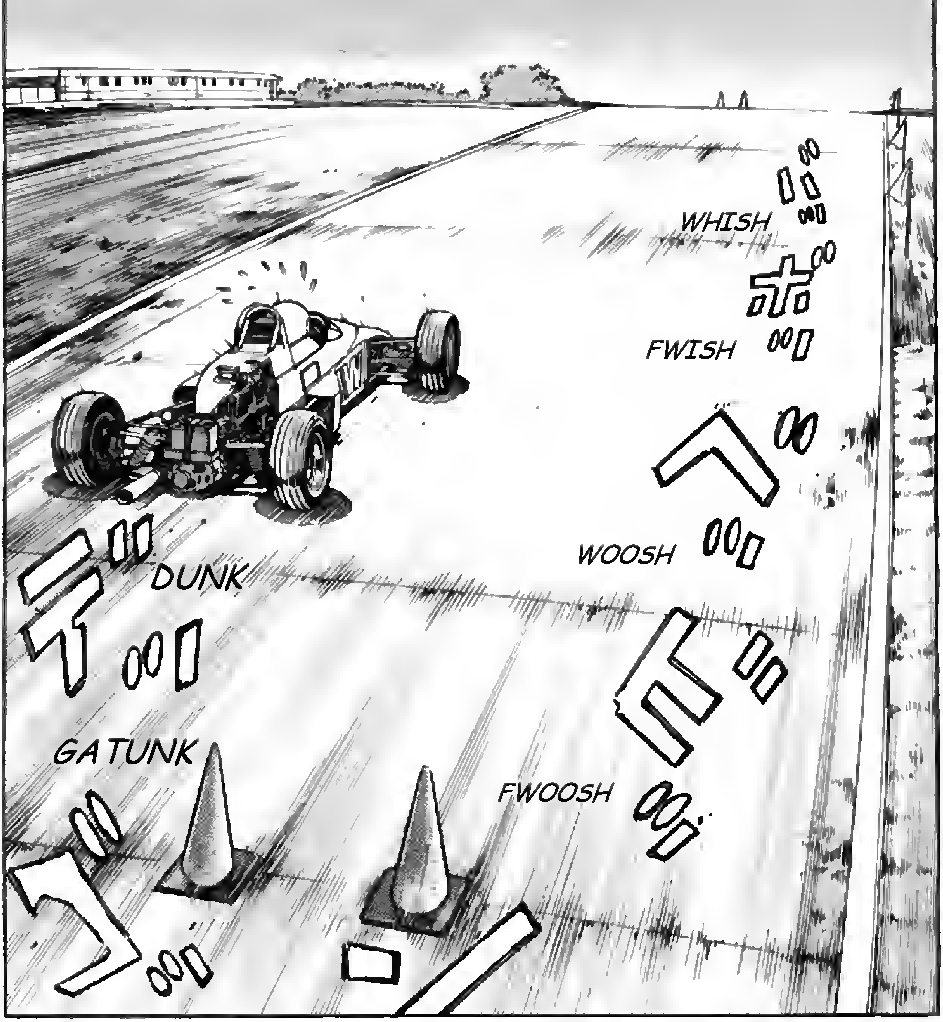

Whoa!
This way!
Just wait, you'll see.
STEEL HEART

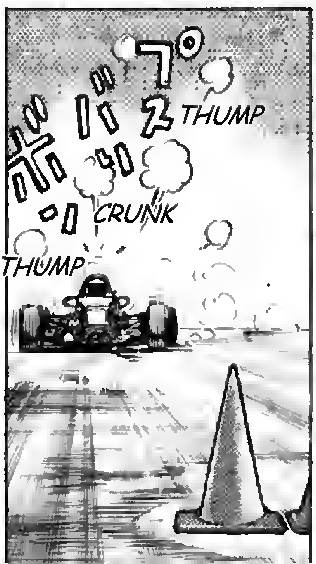

JRAAANG
!!

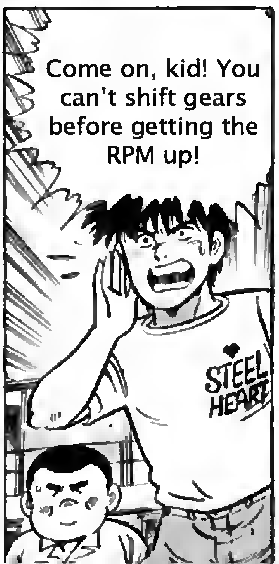

Yep, all yours. Including the helmet and the race suit.
This is mine? Is it really really mine!?
Gunma ...

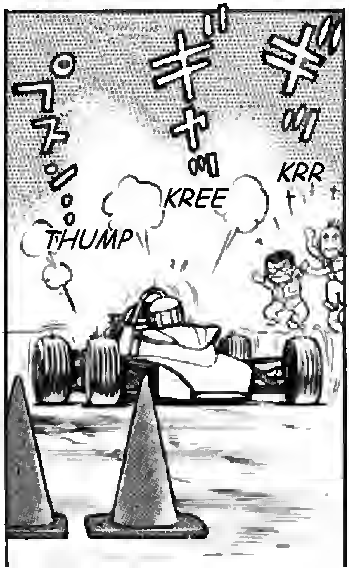

That's right! It's a Formula Ford!
G...Gunma... You didn't... That's for me!?

I even found two guys to be your pit crew!
Don't get all excited just yet. There's more.
Gunma! This is awesome!
Woohooo!
!?
We just had to respect Gunma after what happened, you know...?
Peabow... We... We...
Lon! Don!
Lon, Don, this is brilliant!
Better than living like some punks!
So we asked Gunma if there was anything we could do to help with the racing... I mean, if it's cool with you.
Man, what an awesome day!


WHISH
FWISH
WOOSH
DUNK
GATUNK
FWOOSH


THUMP
CRUNK
THUMP


Come on, kid! You can't shift gears before getting the RPM up!
STEEL HEART


KREE
KRR
THUMP

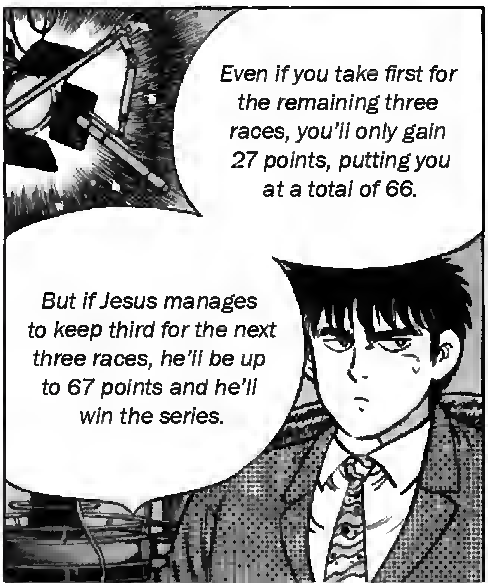
There's a lot going on...
As one kid starts racing, another may be quitting...
Heh... Yeah...
Heh... We're witnessing the birth of another racer...

There's no doubt in my mind.
Otoya'll be back.
Don't be an idiot.

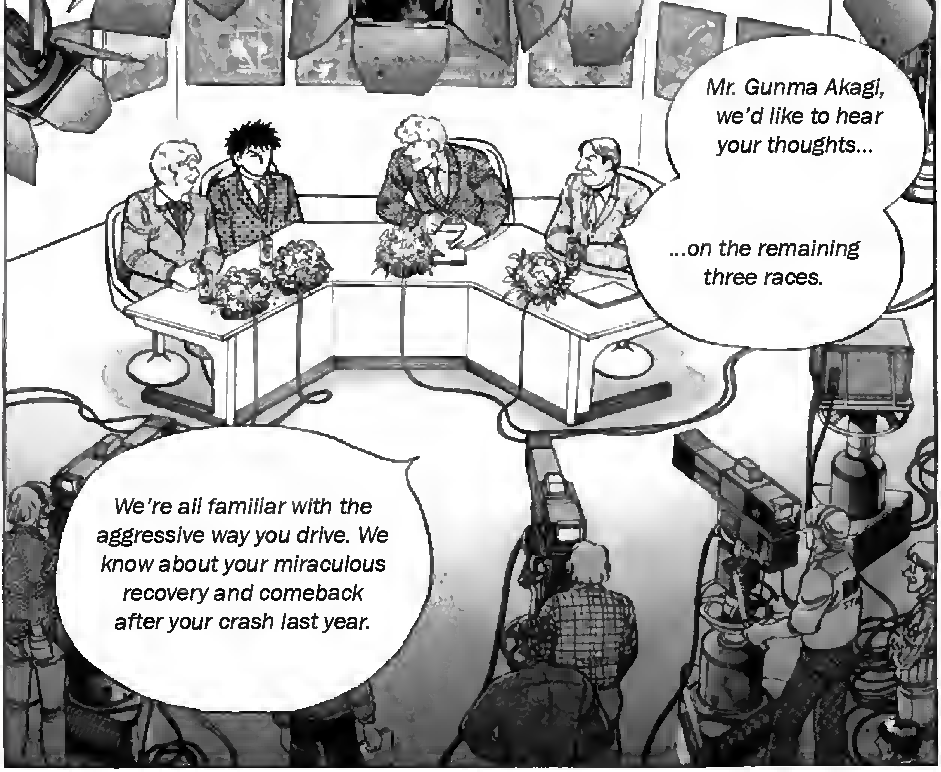
...there's no way out.
Once you're on the circuit...
BRUT
THUD
THUMP
BUBUNG

Chapter 4:
Vacation

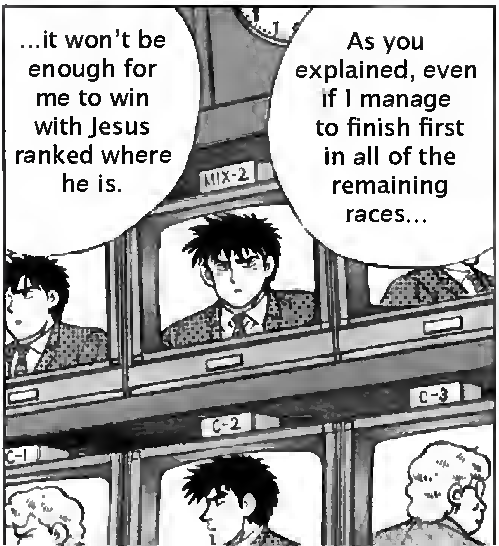
After a decisive race in England, there are three races left this season.
The races will continue in France, at Le Mans, Nogaro, and Dijon.
Jesus Christ currently has the lead with 55 points.
BBS
ENTORY


Even if you take first for the remaining three races, you'll only gain 27 points, putting you at a total of 66.
But if Jesus manages to keep third for the next three races, he'll be up to 67 points and he'll win the series.

You're in second with 39 points. You're 16 points behind.
That's gonna be tough to catch up to.

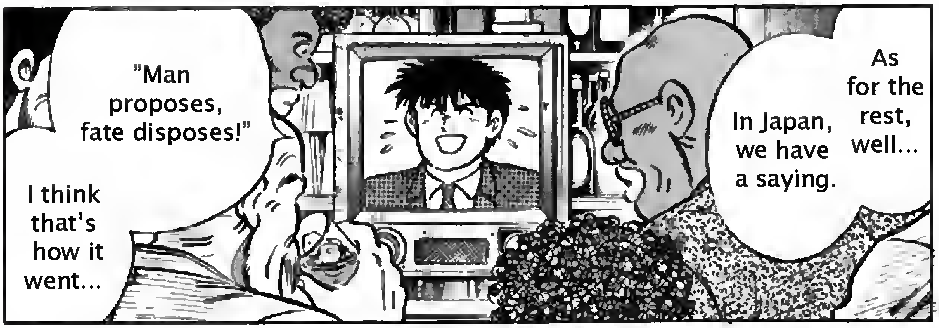

Mr. Gunma Akagi, we'd like to hear your thoughts...
...on the remaining three races.
We're all familiar with the aggressive way you drive. We know about your miraculous recovery and comeback after your crash last year.

You left your home to race in England and rose to your current rank. Tell us about your career!


...it won't be enough for me to win with Jesus ranked where he is.
As you explained, even if I manage to finish first in all of the remaining races...
MIX-2
C-1
C-2
C-3

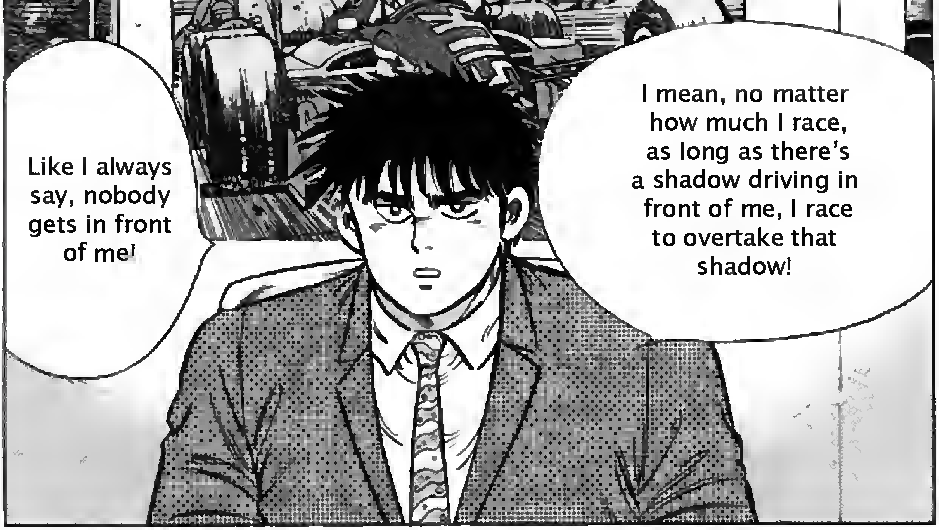
All I can do is wait for him to mess up.
Catching up to Jesus is gonna be tough.

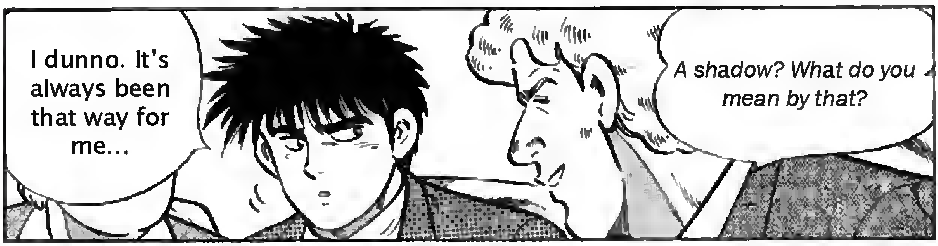
I'm aiming to finish first in all three races!
But that doesn't mean I've given up!
I can't achieve victory by myself.
I mean, it's like, what the hell, man?

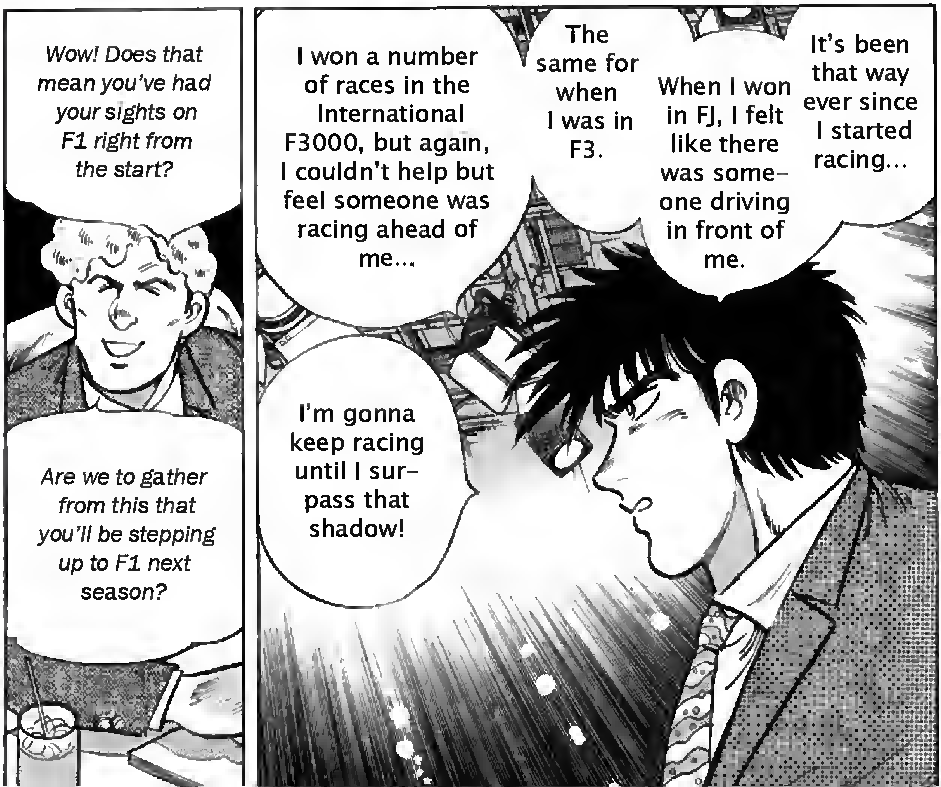

"Man proposes, fate disposes!"
I think that's how it went...
In Japan, we have a saying.
As for the rest, well...

Can I get a beer over here!?
He's grown up so much...

I wanna win, but...
...winning won't clear my conscience.
I'll do my best, but it's not like I'm hoping Jesus messes up.
Lemme just say this one thing.
But...


Like I always say, nobody gets in front of me!
I mean, no matter how much I race, as long as there's a shadow driving in front of me, I race to overtake that shadow!

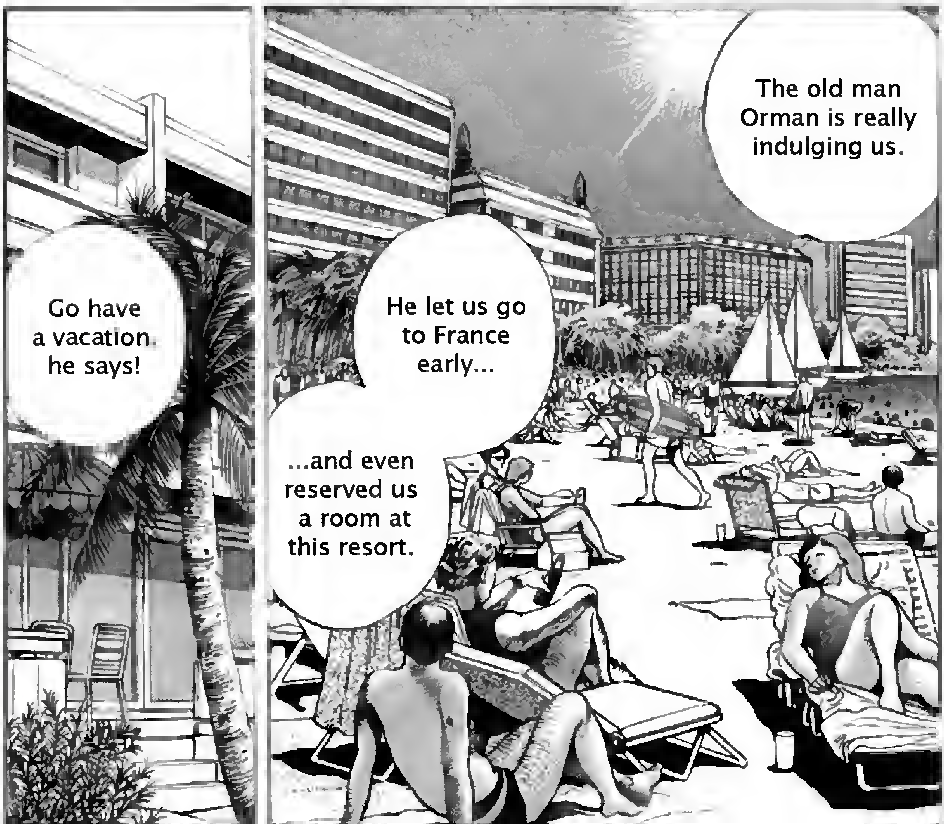

I dunno. It's always been that way for me...
A shadow? What do you mean by that?

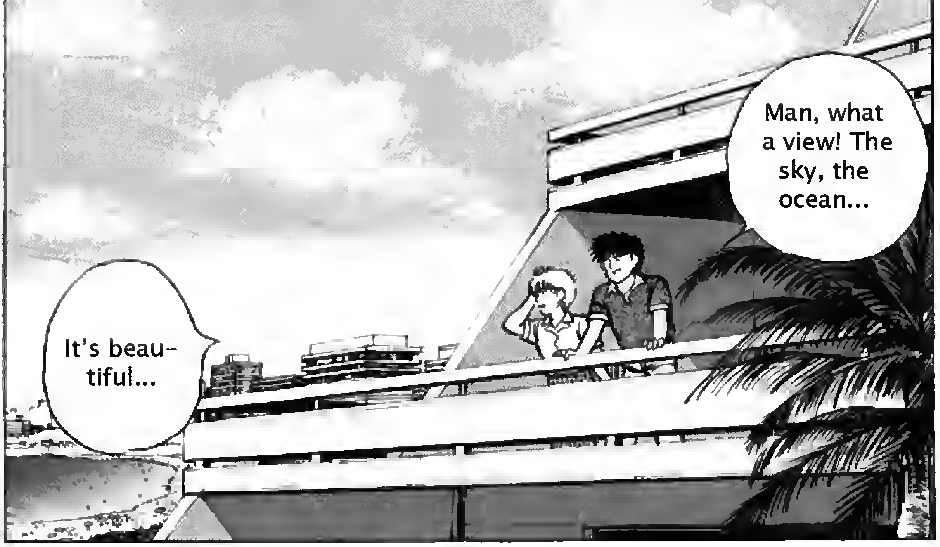

Wow! Does that mean you've had your sights on F1 right from the start?
Are we to gather from this that you'll be stepping up to F1 next season?
I won a number of races in the International F3000, but again, I couldn't help but feel someone was racing ahead of me...
The same for when I was in F3.
When I won in FJ, I felt like there was some-one driving in front of me.
It's been that way ever since I started racing...
I'm gonna keep racing until I sur-pass that shadow!

Ain't nobody...
SHING
Either way, I ain't showin' any mercy these next three races!
Gather what you like from it.
...gettin' in front of me!
Better believe it!
AIR FRANCE

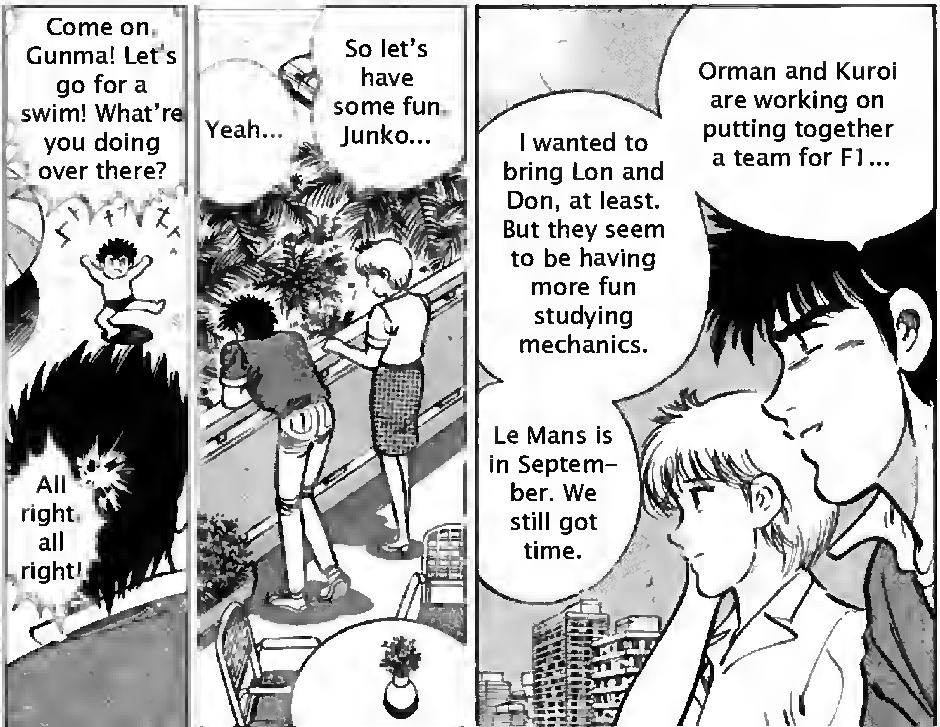
Hey Junko, did you bring a swimsuit?
That must be Côte d'Azur on the coast there.
Still can't stand flying.
FROAR
Looks like the Inland Sea.
Look, Gunma! That's the Mediterra-nean!

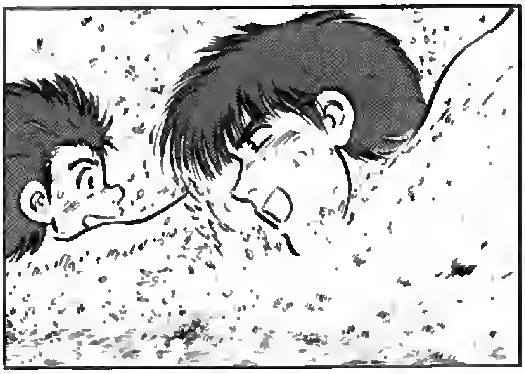
Uh... Yeah, sure...
Right, Gunma?
Then you gotta buy one! A stylish one!
No... I didn't bring one.

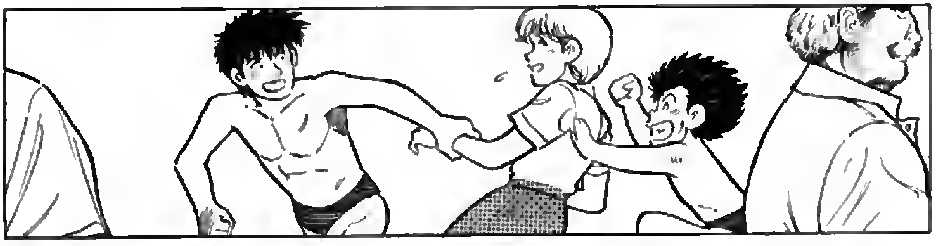

Go have a vacation, he says!
He let us go to France early...
...and even reserved us a room at this resort.
The old man Orman is really indulging us.

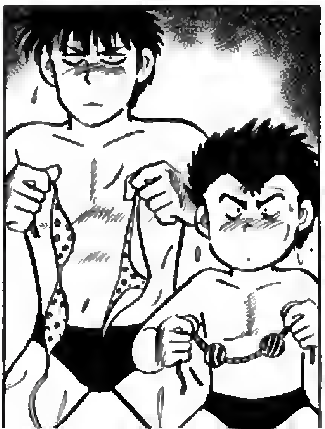

Man, what a view! The sky, the ocean...
It's beautiful...

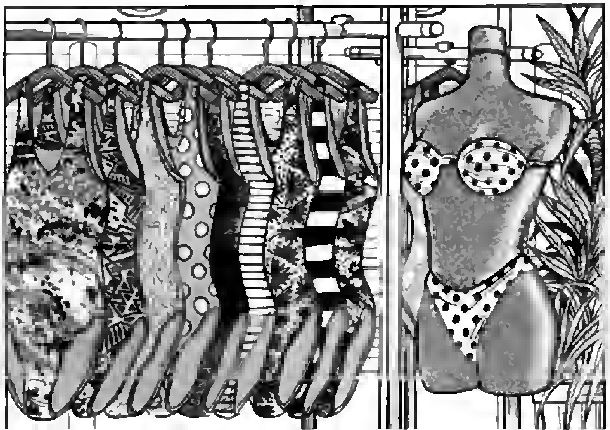
Tamotsu is busy designing a frame.
Don't worry about it.
But I feel bad that only we get to relax...

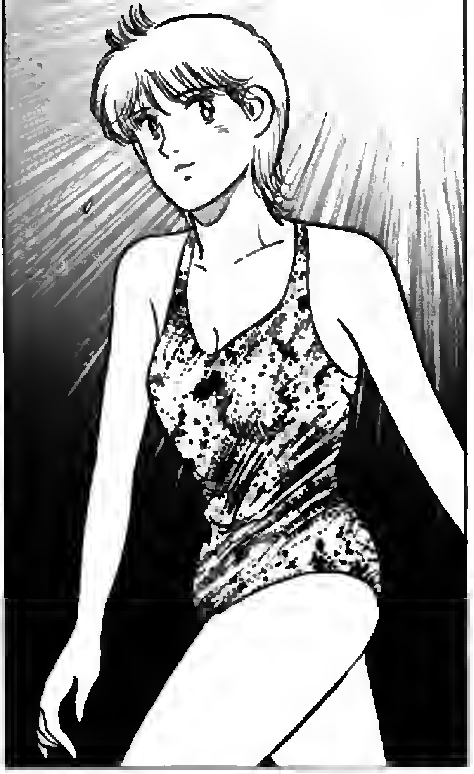

Come on, Gunma! Let's go for a swim! What're you doing over there?
All right, all right!
Yeah...
So let's have some fun, Junko...
Orman and Kuroi are working on putting together a team for F1...
I wanted to bring Lon and Don, at least. But they seem to be having more fun studying mechanics.
Le Mans is in September. We still got time.

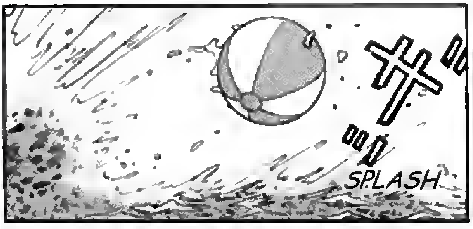


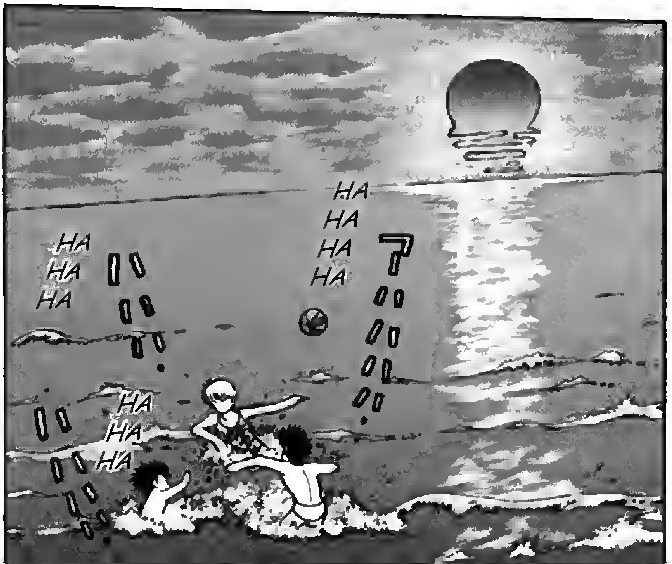








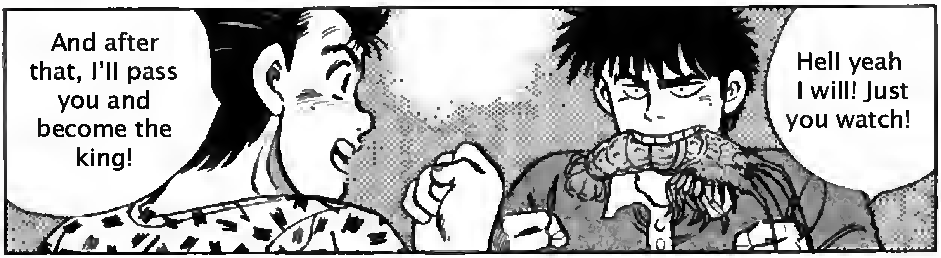

SPLASH


HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

I think I've found a reason to live, Gunma!
No one's ever wanted to die after they've packed themselves full with good food.
No, I'm talkin' about racing!
I'm so grateful, Gunma!

I'm not talkin' about now. You're gonna be the best one day!
Passing me won't make you the world's best...

And one day, I'm gonna surpass you and become the best in the world!
I'm gonna give it my best! I'm gonna work hard and be like you!

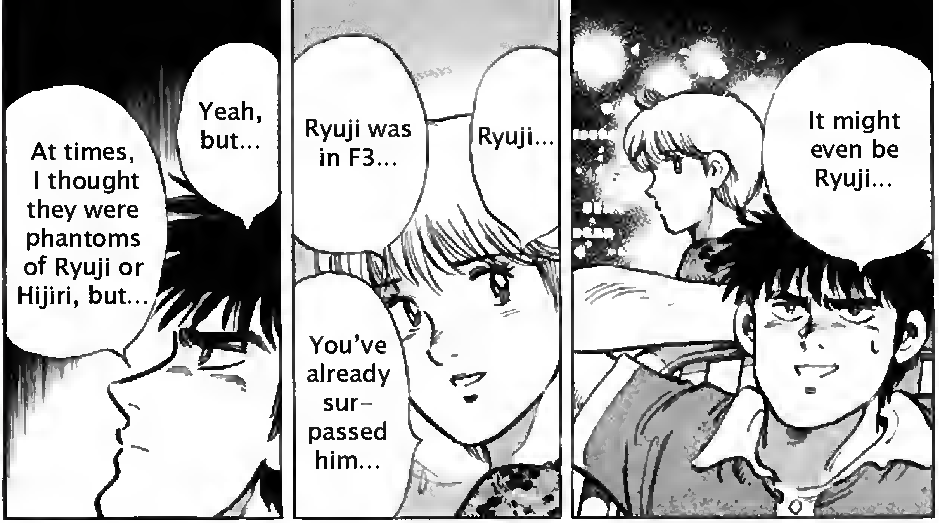

And after that, I'll pass you and become the king!
Hell yeah I will! Just you watch!

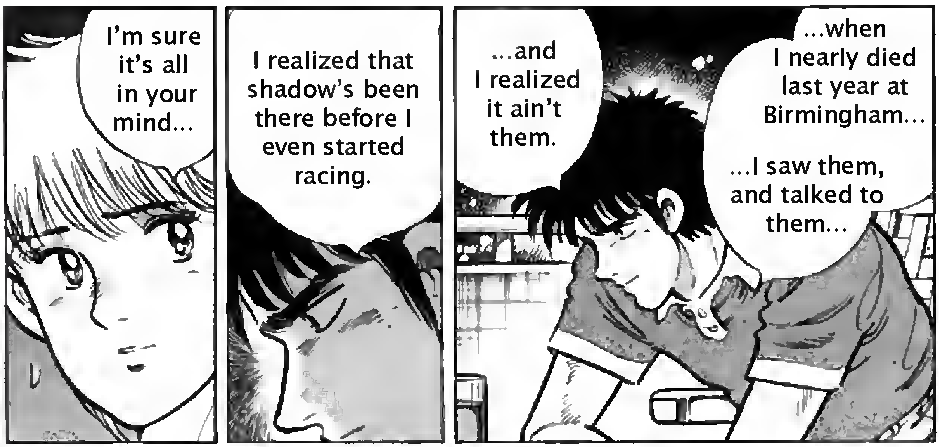
I think that's great, Peabow.
Get a load of this kid, heh...

Heh, it's like he's gettin' drunk off his own energy...
And I'm about to take on all that work!
How many people do I gotta beat to become the world's best racer? This is gonna take a lot of work!
My heart is racing like mad!
Man, I'm already getting all worked up!
Man, I think we let him drink too much...
Life is like wine!
Yeah, I feel like I'm drunk!
Cut that out, kid!
Thanks, Gunma. I dunno if you understand how grateful I am... I'm... I dunno what to say...
Let's forget about it, Peabow. Just let it all go. Focus on what's ahead of you.
I'm so sorry...
And Junko... I'm sorry. I need to thank you, and apologize...

...can I think of you guys as my parents?
Hey, can I...
Sako is...
...
...
What about Sako, Pea...?
Guess it's time for a toast!
All right, then.
I've already decided that from before!
She's my lover!
And...
And to yours. Gunma, Junko...
Peabow, this is to your future...

...to Sako!

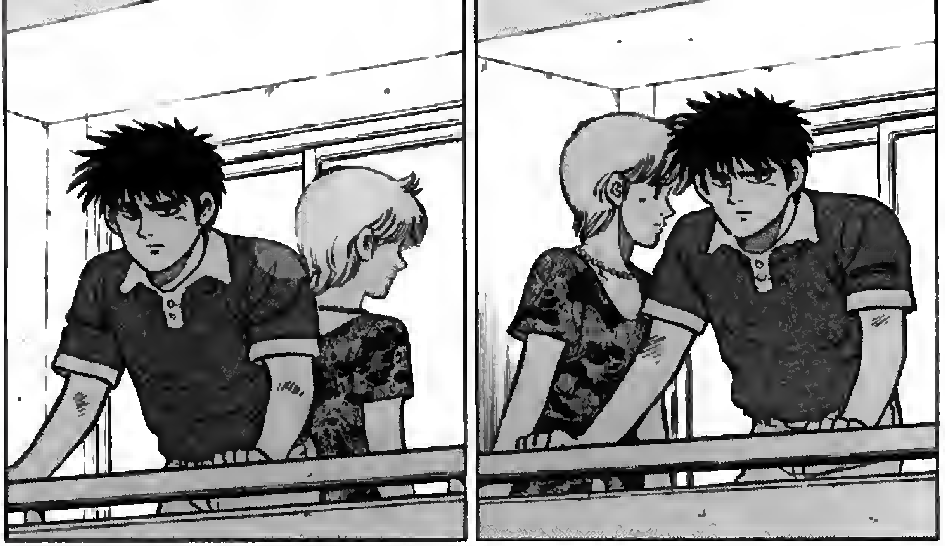

Yeah, but...
At times, I thought they were phantoms of Ryuji or Hijiri, but...
Ryuji was in F3...
Ryuji...
You've already sur-passed him...
It might even be Ryuji...

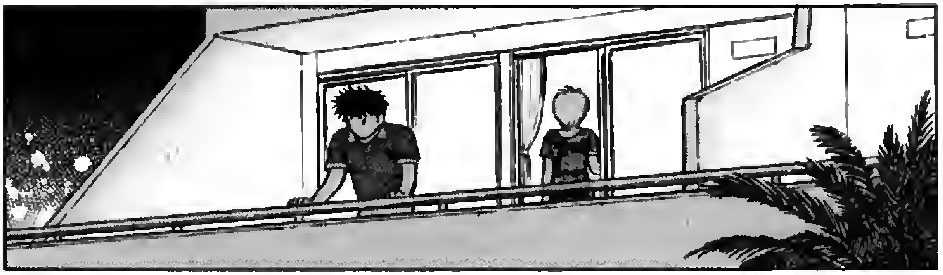

I'm sure it's all in your mind...
I realized that shadow's been there before I even started racing.
...and I realized it ain't them.
...when I nearly died last year at Birmingham...
...I saw them, and talked to them...

I'm sure that's all it is!
I'm probably just seeing another racer who's a lap behind. Ha ha ha...

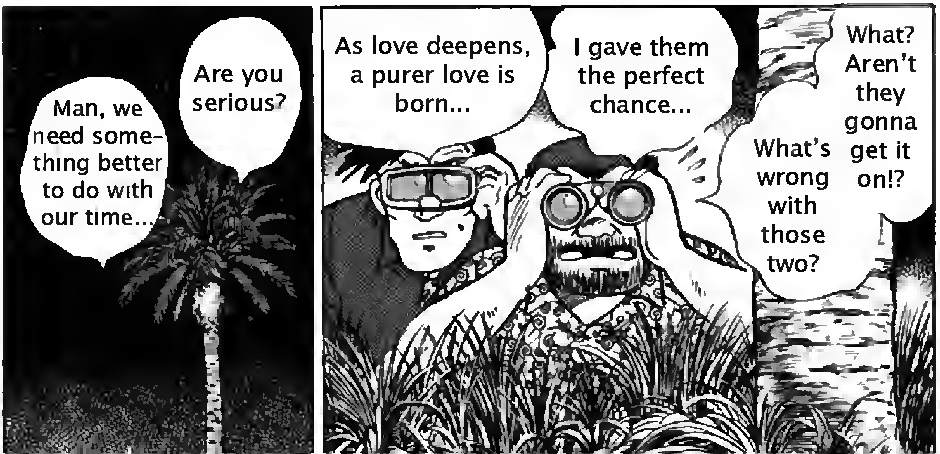
...when I enter F1 and beat every racer in the world!
I'll figure it out eventually...

Ain't nobody gettin' in front of me!
Yeah.
...no matter what?
Do you feel you have to chase that shadow...
A shoo-ting star...
Good night.
I'm going to bed now...
Yeah... Night...
...
...



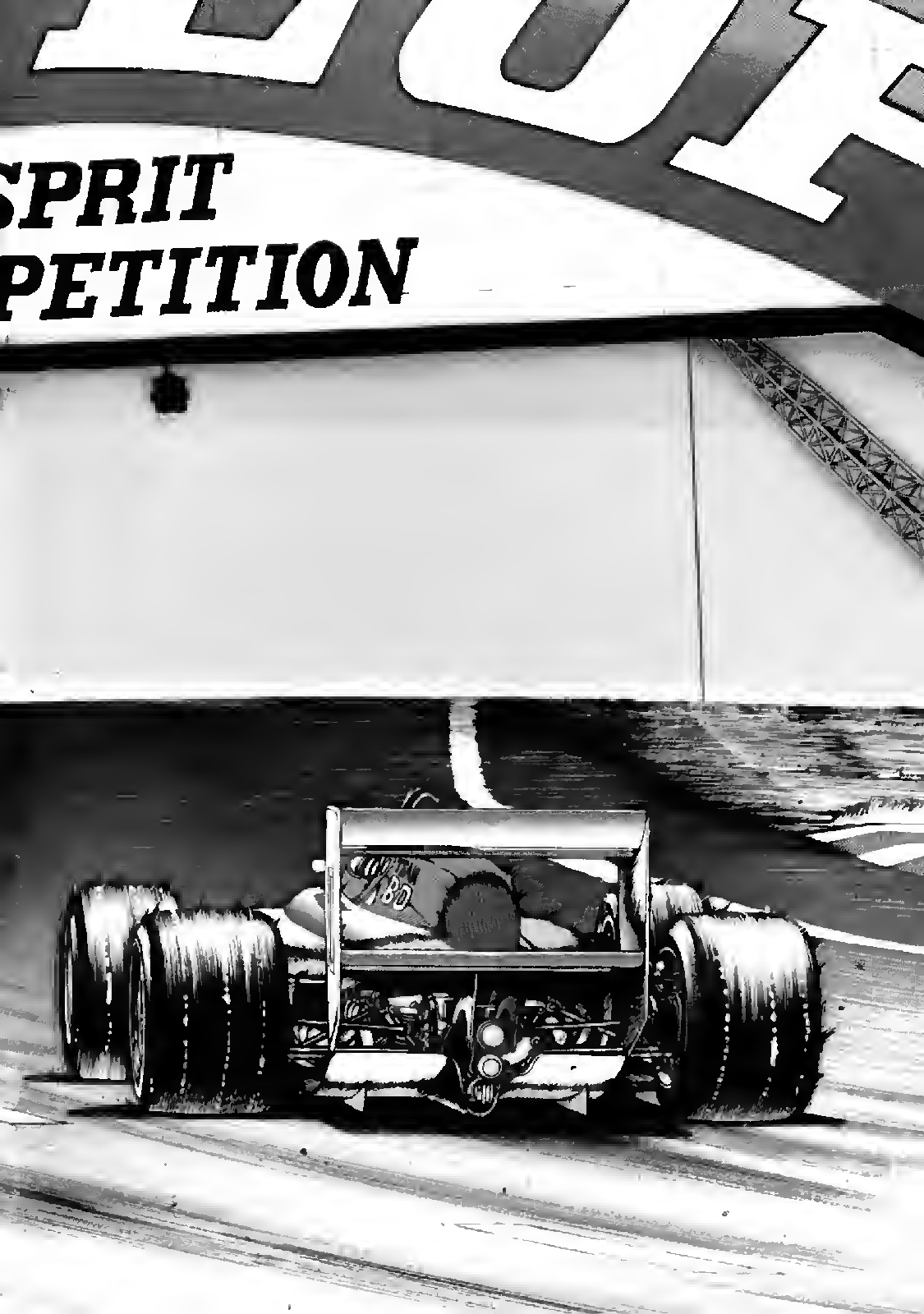


Junko's goin' back to her room!
Hey...
Whoa, whoa...

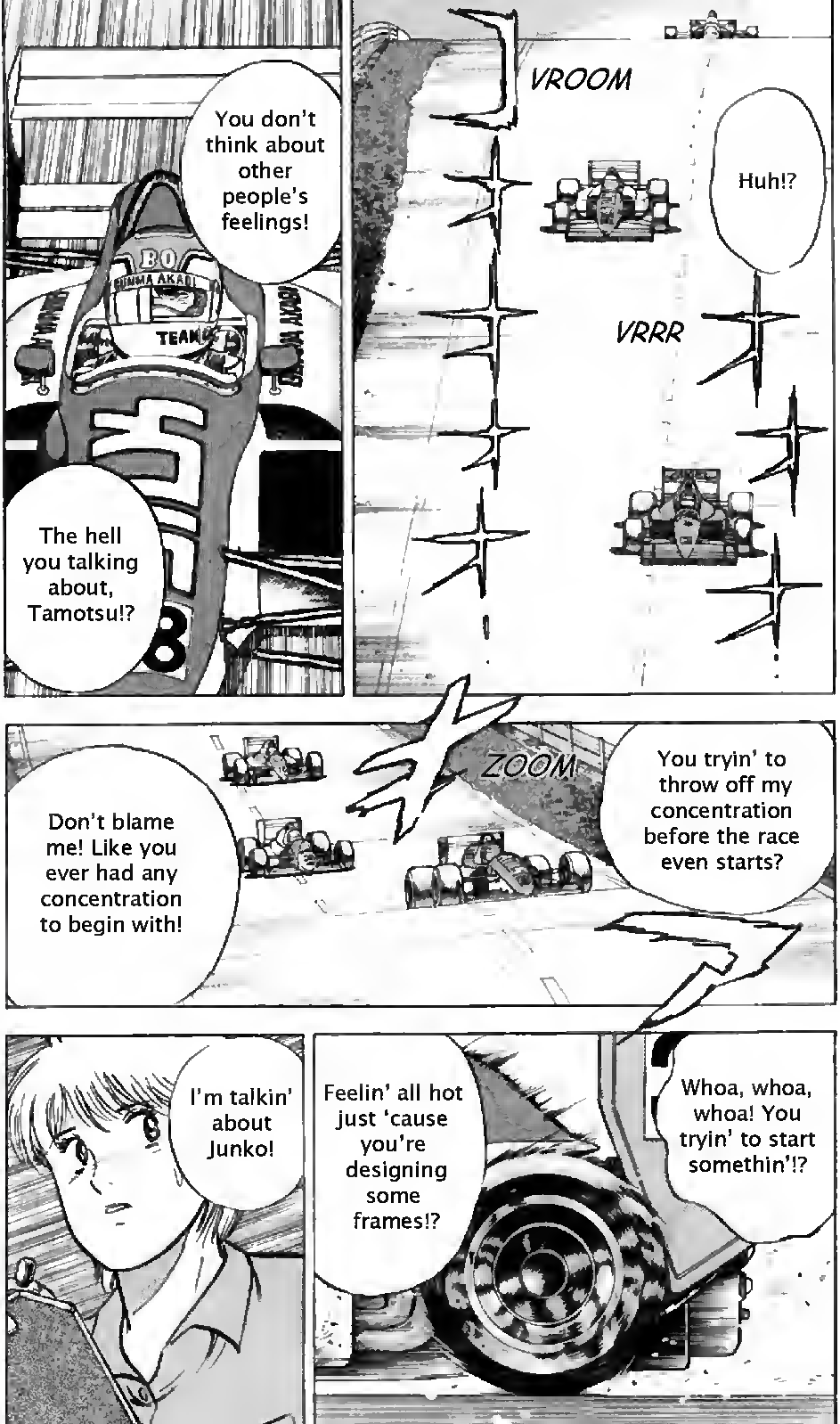

Man, we need something better to do with our time...
Are you serious?
As love deepens, a purer love is born...
I gave them the perfect chance...
What's wrong with those two?
What? Aren't they gonna get it on!?

Chapter 5:
Glory at Le Mans

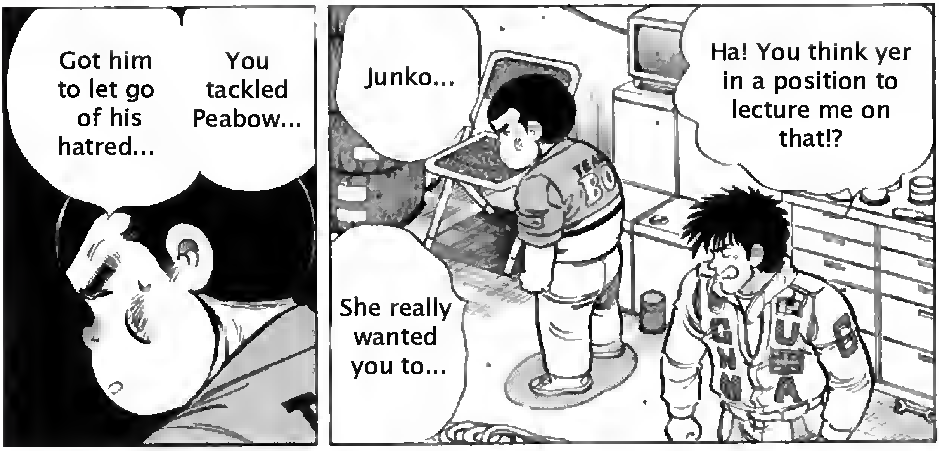
DUNLOP
L'ESPRIT
DE COMPETITION
You suck, Gunma!


SPRIT
PETITION

DUN
L'ES
DE COM
You suck, Gunma!


You don't think about other people's feelings!
The hell you talking about, Tamotsu!?
VROOM
Huh!?
VRRR
ZOOM
You tryin' to throw off my concentration before the race even starts?
Don't blame me! Like you ever had any concentration to begin with!
I'm talkin' about Junko!
Feelin' all hot just 'cause you're designing some frames!?
Whoa, whoa, whoa! You tryin' to start somethin'!?

Why didn't you get it on with her, Gunma!?
GUNMA
USA
TEAM BOSTON
UNMA AKA
TEA


Got him to let go of his hatred...
You tackled Peabow...
Junko...
She really wanted you to...
Ha! You think yer in a position to lecture me on that!?
GUNMA
USA

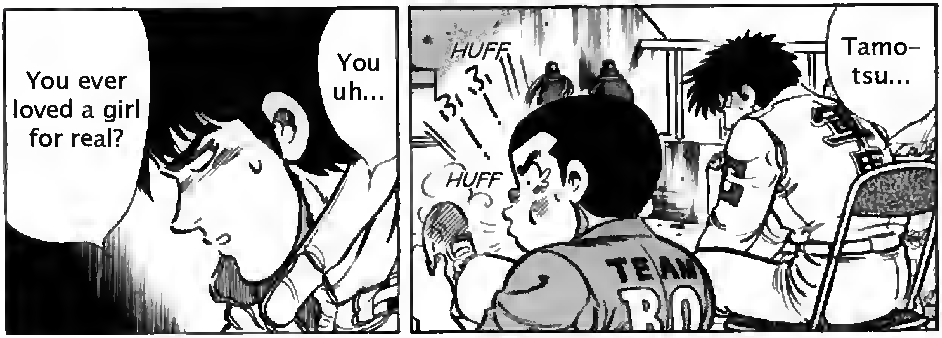
So why didn't you get it on with her, Gunma!?
You finally built yourself a peaceful situation.

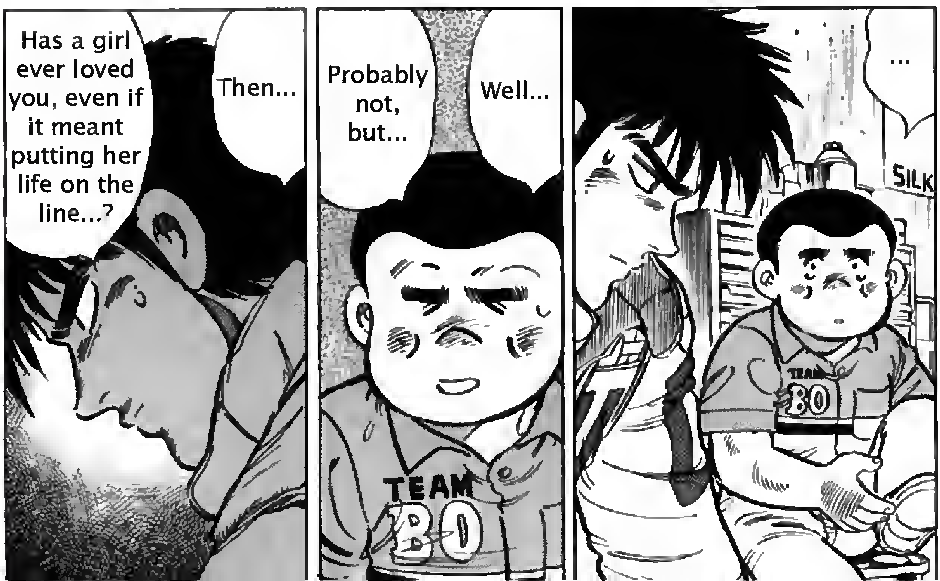
Gettin' us a room at a hotel in Côte d'Azur, Orman tellin' us to take a vacation. Now I know what you were up to.
Heh, so that's what that was all about...

Stay out of my business.
WHAM
You're a stubborn bastard, aren't you?
TWITCH
Get back here, Gunma...
I was fourth in the prelimi-nary... Jesus took pole position...
Just sit down! Come on!
What about her!?
You're... you're thinkin' about Sako, ain't you?
I gotta finish first on all three remaining races...

You don't have to tell me what to do!
I'm grateful for Junko...
Wh...what I'm sayin' is, why don't you think a little about Junko?
You used to be sleazy and superficial...
You used to be so sleazy...
...
Shut your mouth!
Then why didn't you...?
I'm out, dude...
When you both need each other... Why?
So why, at such an important time like this...
BAM
G...Gunma...
TEAM

Owww ...
Oww oww oww...

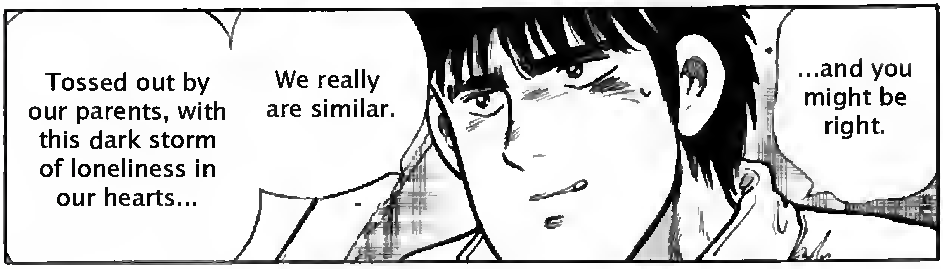

You ever loved a girl for real?
You uh...
HUFF
HUFF
Tamo-tsu...
TEAM
80

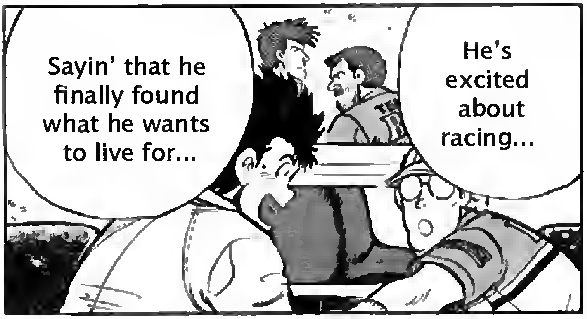

Has a girl ever loved you, even if it meant putting her life on the line...?
Then...
Probably not, but...
Well...
TEAM
80
...
SILK

I'm con-fused...
If I'm bein' honest with you...
Of course not...
Well, no...
...
!
...and Junko...
Yuki... Sako...
I'm not smart enough, dude. I don't know how I should think of them... I honestly don't know...
Him...?
...
...is that I wanna make him happy...
SWF
The only thing I know...

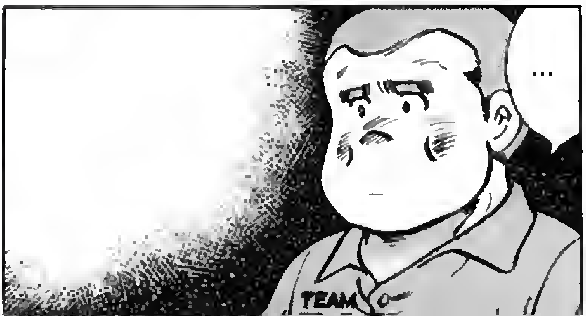
Pea-
bow.

...that he was just like me...
It was you who told me...

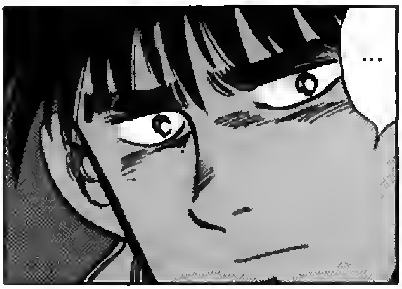

Tossed out by our parents, with this dark storm of loneliness in our hearts...
We really are similar.
...and you might be right.


Sayin' that he finally found what he wants to live for...
He's excited about racing...

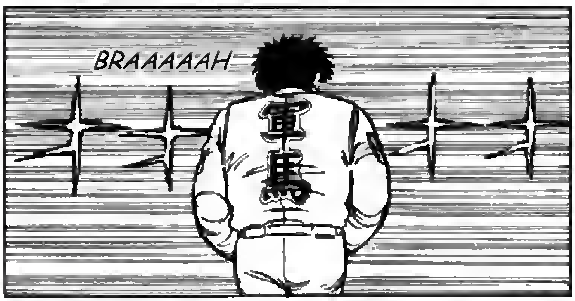
But he only just got there...
I'm already through with that.
GNMA


...
TEAM

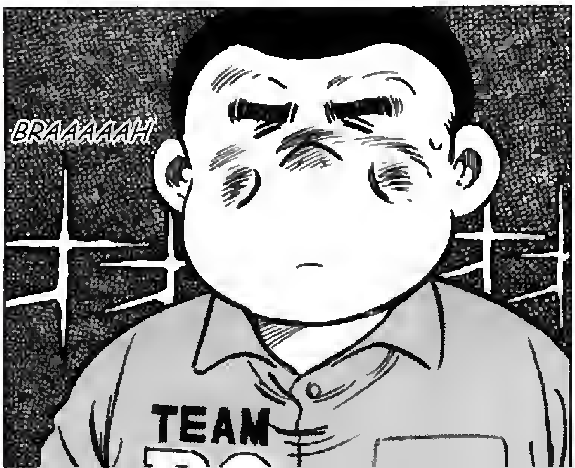
That his goal is to beat me, after I become the world's best...
And I will become the world's best. For him!
You understand, don't you, Tamotsu? That's all I can think about now...

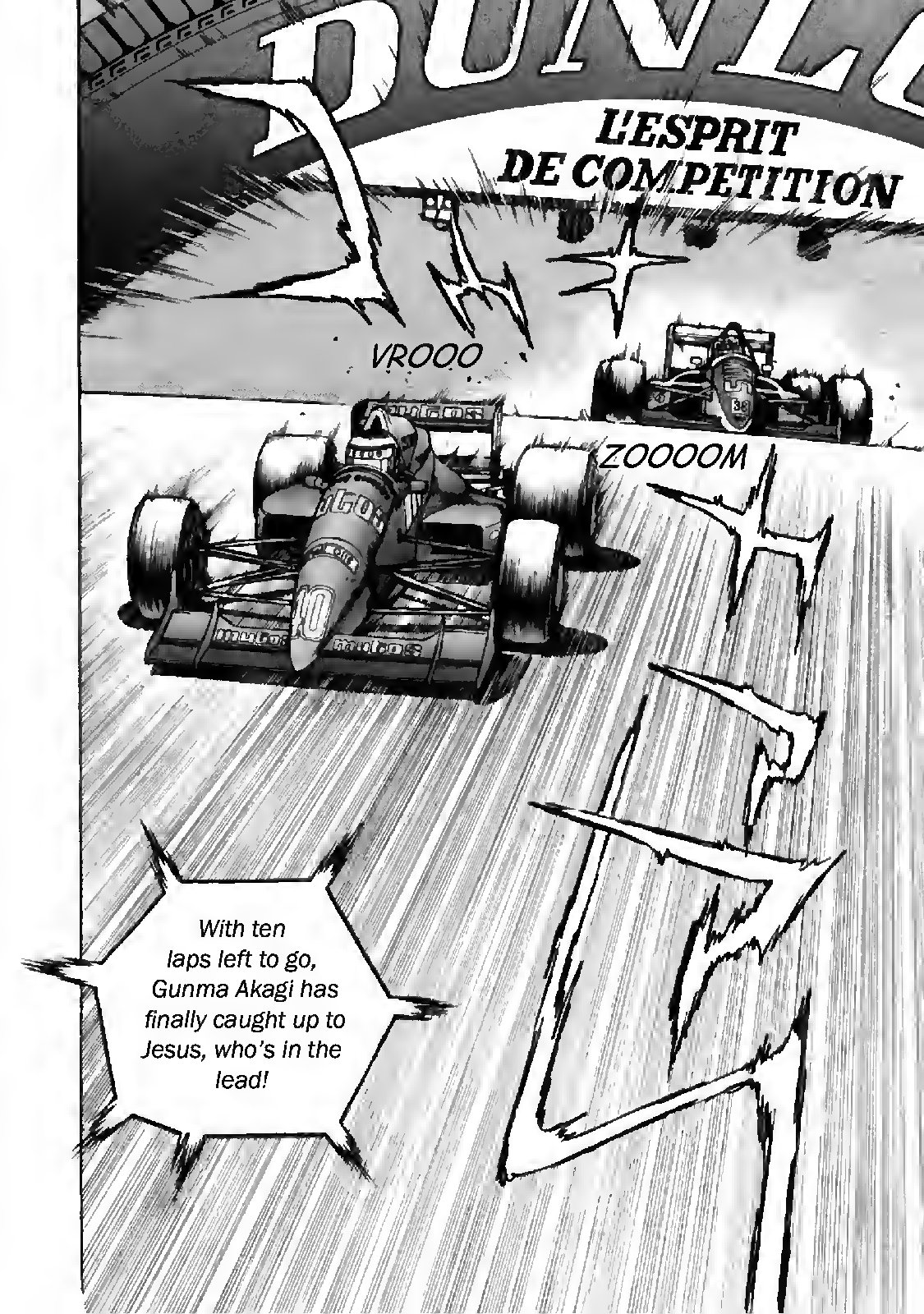

...

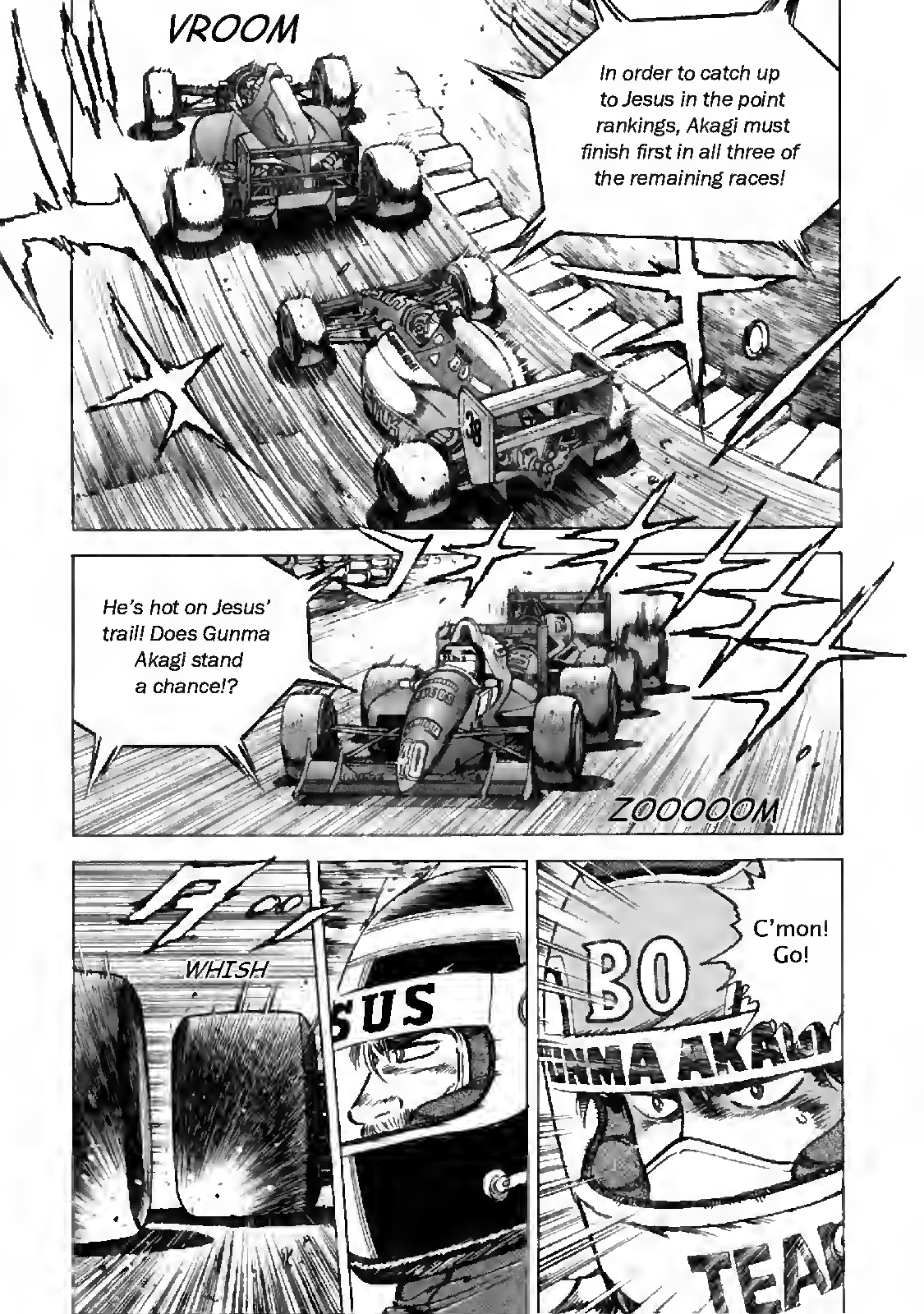
All right, Gunma.
Then let me ask you this one thing...
Are you really through with your loneliness?

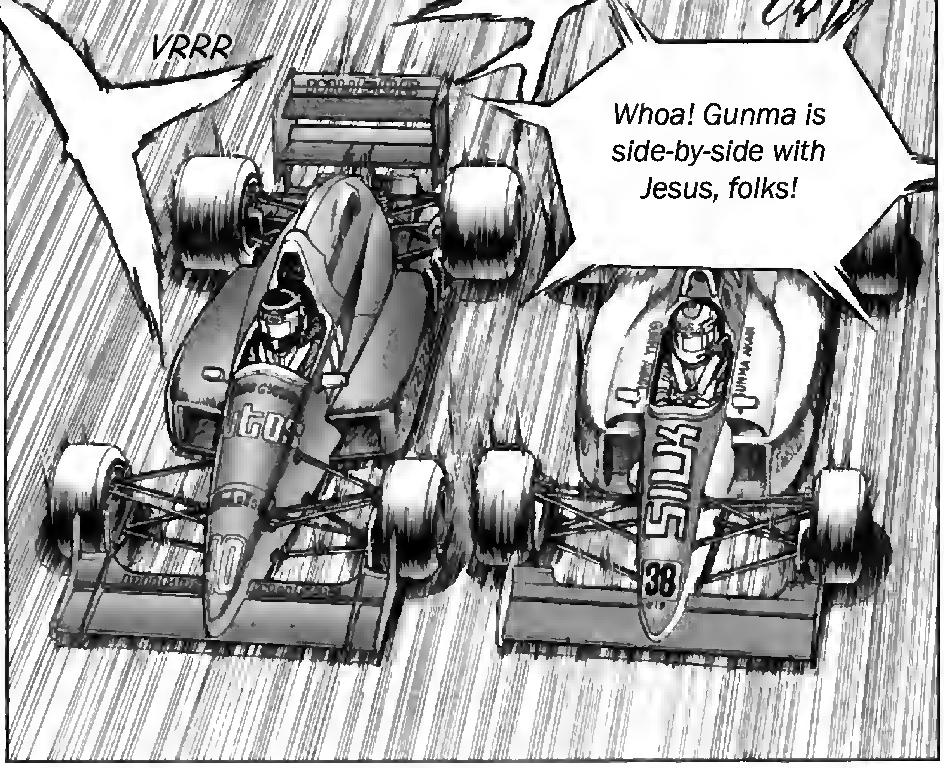

BRAAAAAH

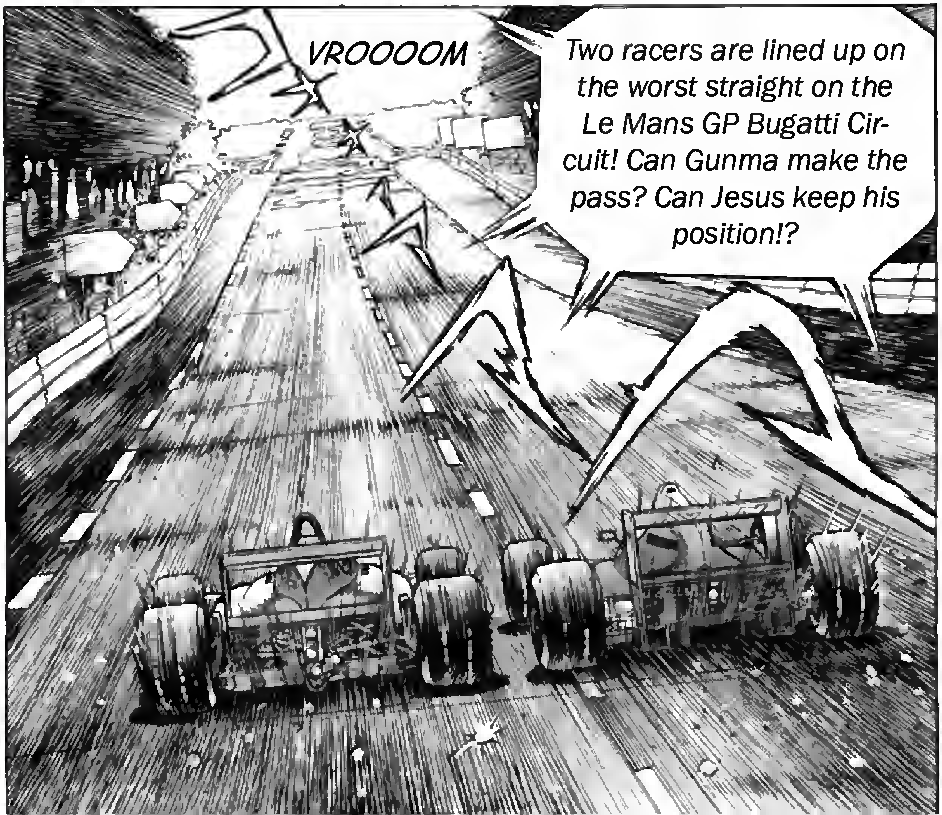
Well, at least I think so!

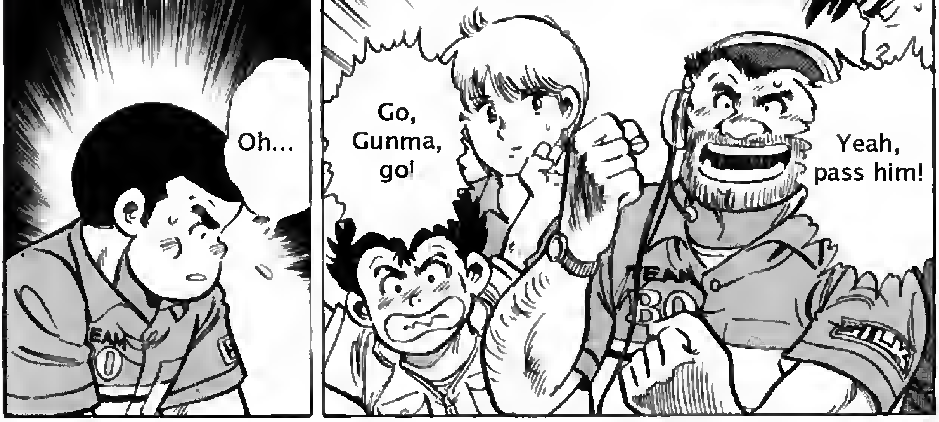

BRAAAAAH
TEAM


L'ESPRIT
DE COMPETITION
VROOO
ZOOOOM
With ten laps left to go, Gunma Akagi has finally caught up to Jesus, who's in the lead!

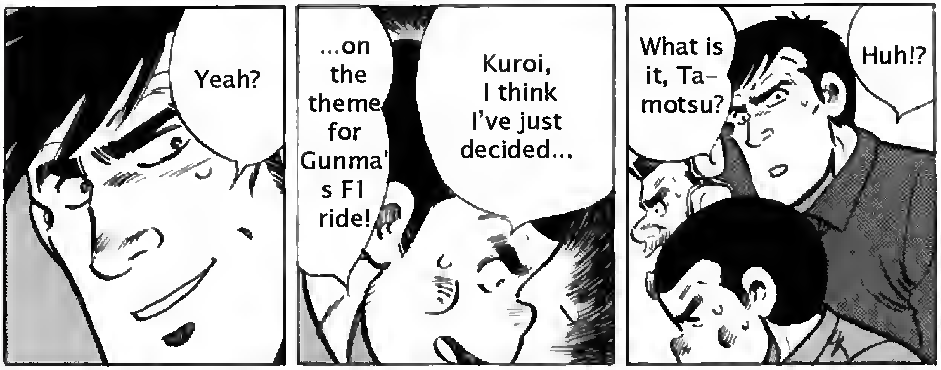

VROOM
In order to catch up to Jesus in the point rankings, Akagi must finish first in all three of the remaining races!
He's hot on Jesus' trail! Does Gunma Akagi stand a chance!?
ZOOOOOM
WHISH
C'mon! Go!


VRRR
Whoa! Gunma is side-by-side with Jesus, folks!
38

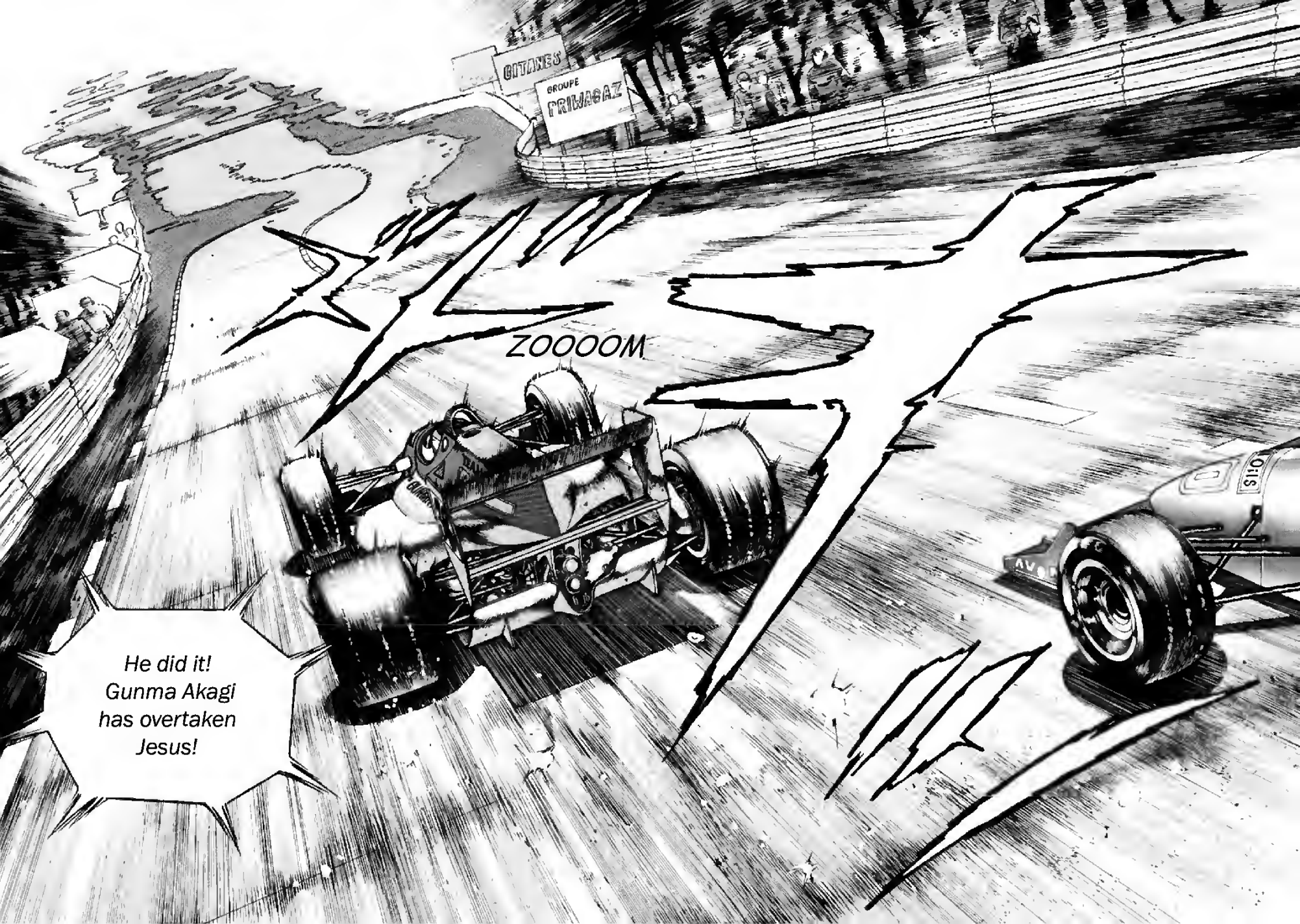

VROOOOM
Two racers are lined up on the worst straight on the Le Mans GP Bugatti Circuit! Can Gunma make the pass? Can Jesus keep his position!?


Oh...
Go, Gunma, go!
Yeah, pass him!

I... I got it!
Ideally, when you're designing a frame, you're going to want to design an image of the driver's life.
-Ken Tyrrell


Yeah?
...on the theme for Gunma's F1 ride!
Kuroi, I think I've just decided...
What is it, Tamotsu?
Huh!?

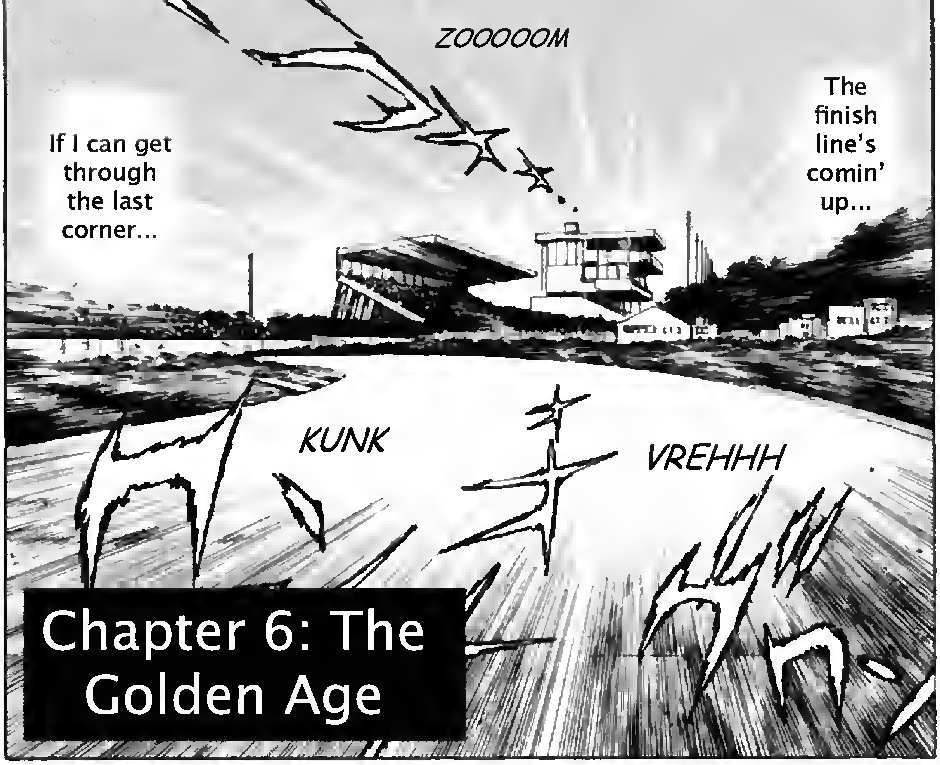
Wh...what!?
Rocket Cock!
AVON

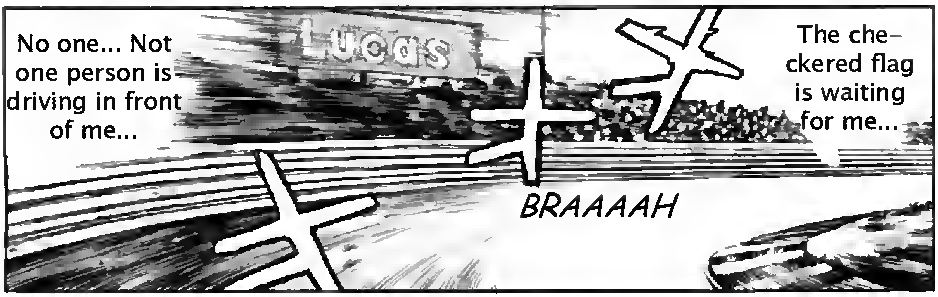

GITANES
GROUPE
PRIWAGAZ
ZOOOOM
He did it! Gunma Akagi has overtaken Jesus!

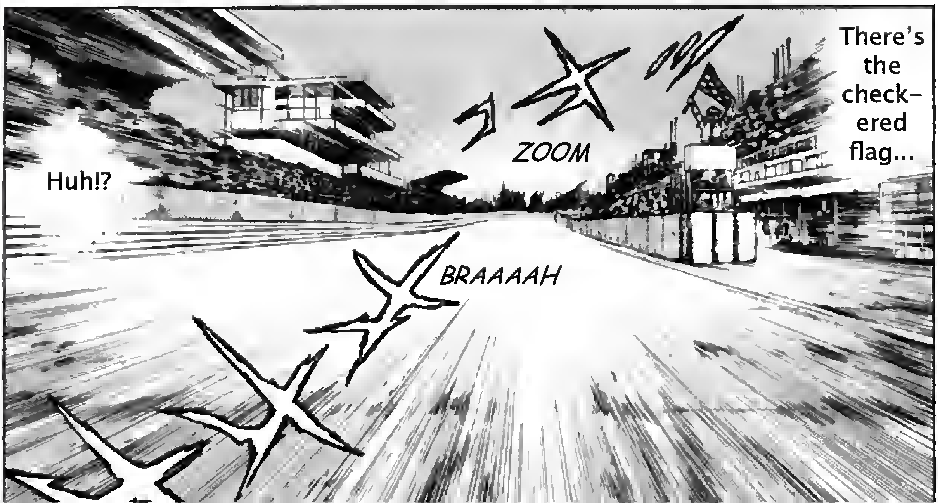
AVON
otis

GITANES
GROUPE
PRIVAGAZ
ZOOOOM
He did it!
Gunma Akagi
has overtaken
Jesus!

You want the car to be like him penetrating the woman he loves, huh...?
WOOOO
Nice, Gunma!
Yeah, he did it!
...
elf
38


ZOOOOOM
If I can get through the last corner...
The finish line's comin' up...
KUNK
VREHHH
Chapter 6: The Golden Age

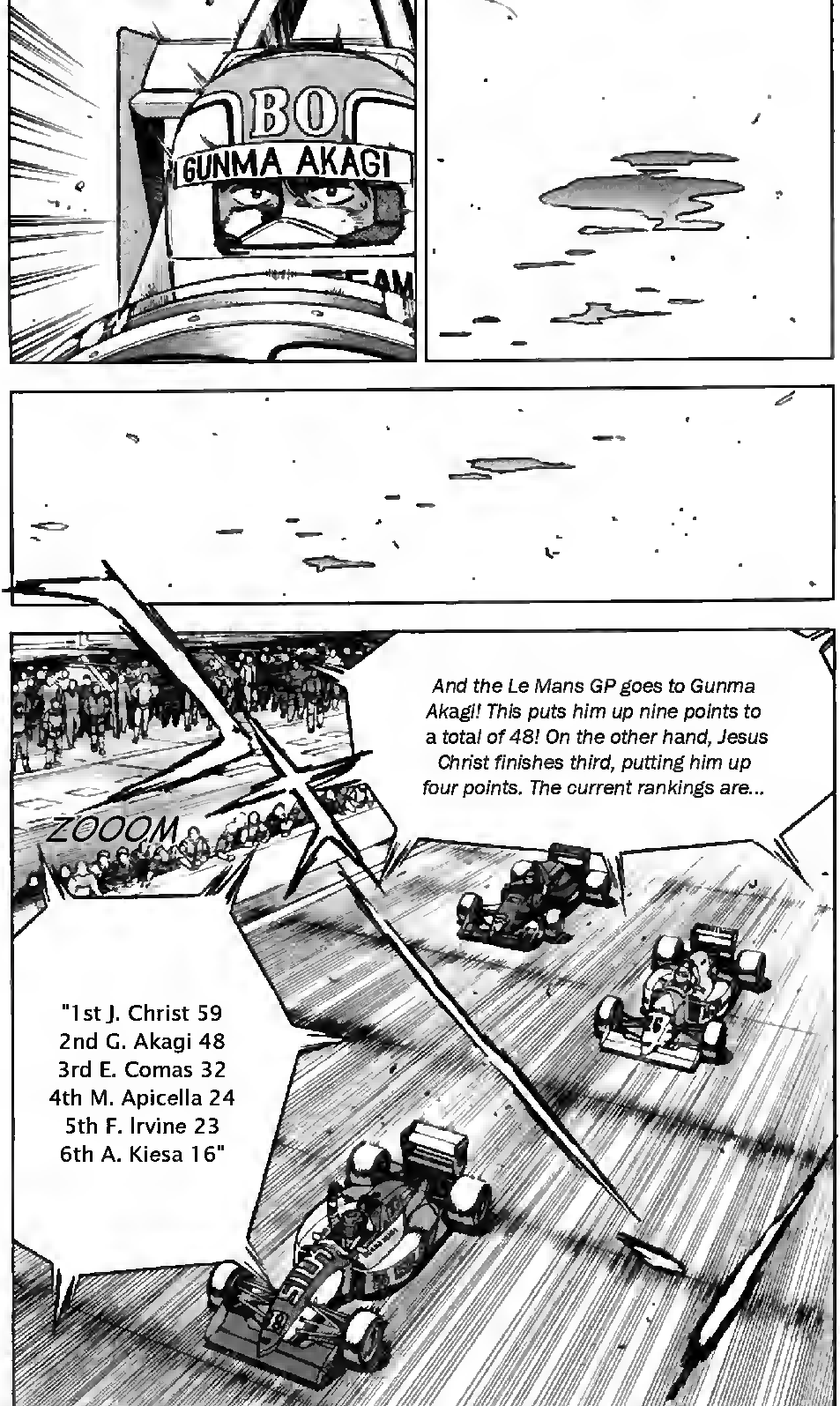

No one... Not one person is driving in front of me...
Lucas
The che-ckered flag is waiting for me...
BRAAAAH


There's the check-ered flag...
ZOOM
Huh!?
BRAAAAH

VROOOM
Wh...who the hell is that!?
Chapter 6:
The Golden Age
BBL
DUNLOP
MOTUL

Chapter 6:
The Golden Age
DUNLOP
MOTUL

VROOOM
Wh...who the hell is that!?


GUNMA AKAGI
And the Le Mans GP goes to Gunma Akagi! This puts him up nine points to a total of 48! On the other hand, Jesus Christ finishes third, putting him up four points. The current rankings are...
ZOOOM
"1st J. Christ 59
2nd G. Akagi 48
3rd E. Comas 32
4th M. Apicella 24
5th F. Irvine 23
6th A. Kiesa 16"

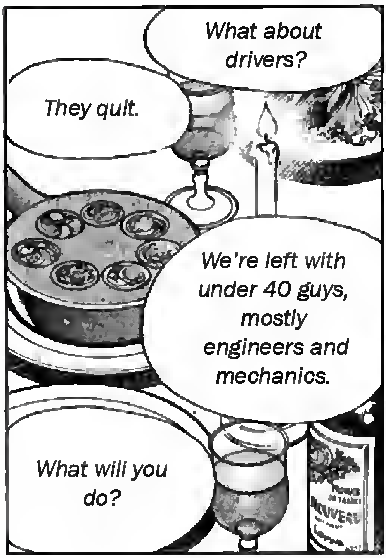
DART
700m
AYALA
S.P.C.A
S.P.C.A
The two remaining races will be held at Nogaro and Dijon!

SPLOT
SPLOT
SPLOT
SPLOT
SPLOT

Thanks for coming.

I don't wanna blame the driver. And it's not the mechanic's fault, either.
I'm exhausted.
We can't do anything unless we have money, after all.
It was my fault. And it was the money. We just didn't have enough money...

We have that to thank for qualifying for the preliminary. But that's about it.
We're near the end of the season, and we don't even have enough funds to maintain the cars the way we want to.
Don't torture yourself. We took fourth in Phoenix, didn't we?


What about drivers?
They quit.
We're left with under 40 guys, mostly engineers and mechanics.
What will you do?

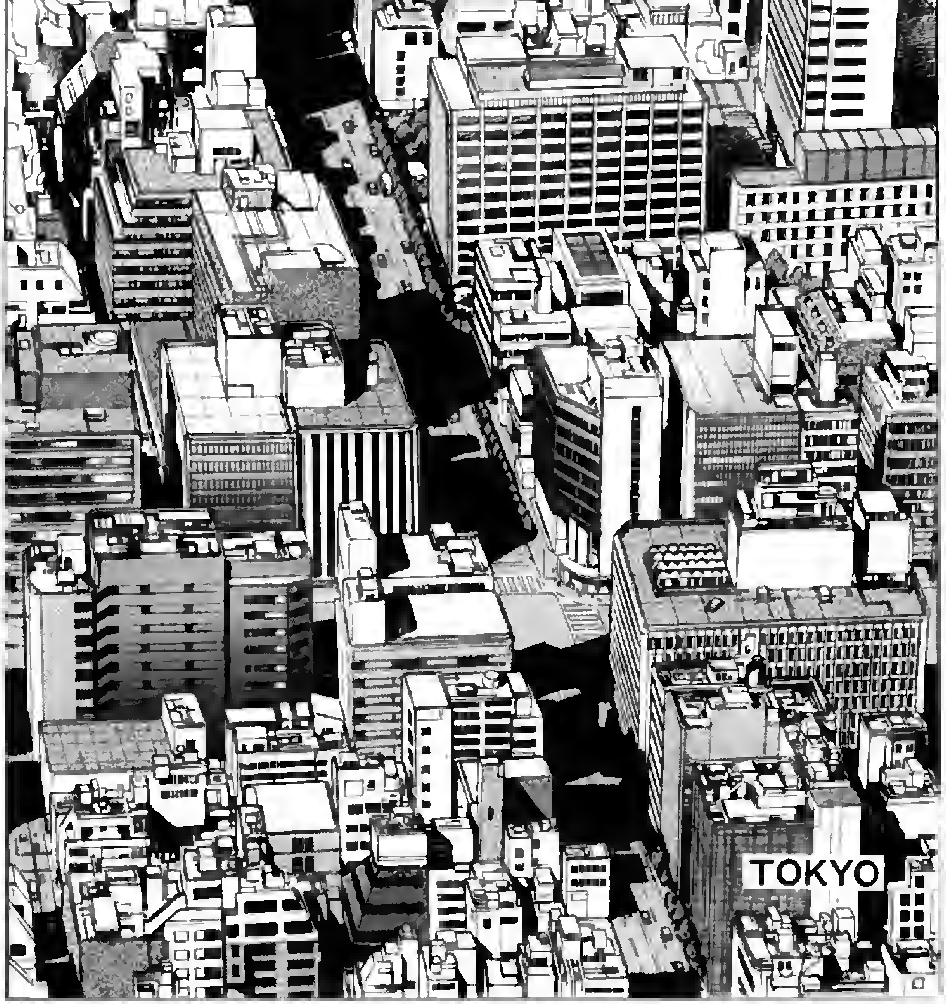
Plus, I'm knackered...

I may not look it, but I come from a noble family in Scotland.
I'll go back to Edinburgh. I might run a bookstore.

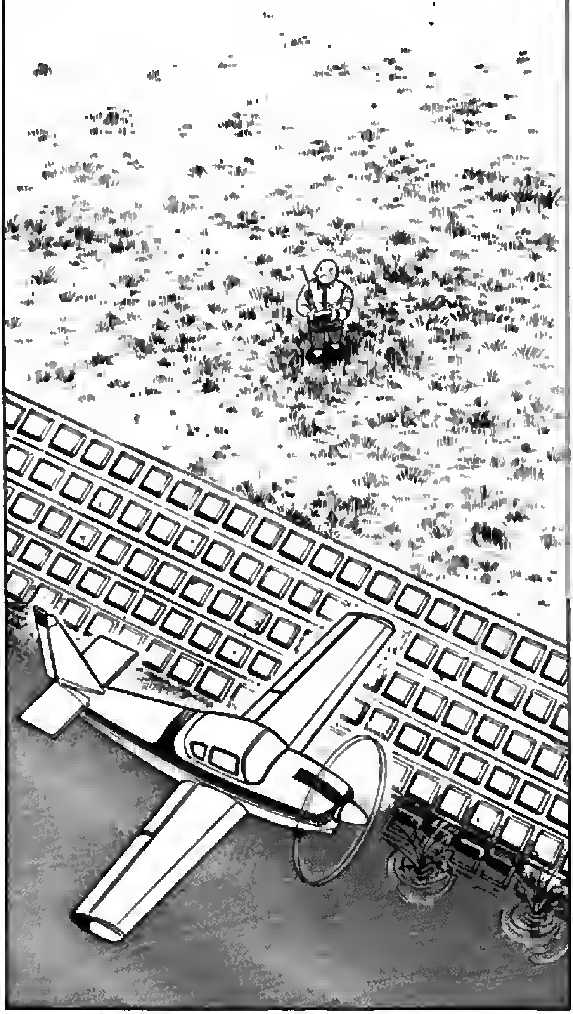
Use whatever equipment that's left in the factory. There's an office too. It's small, but it'll do.
If you'd just sign there, then.

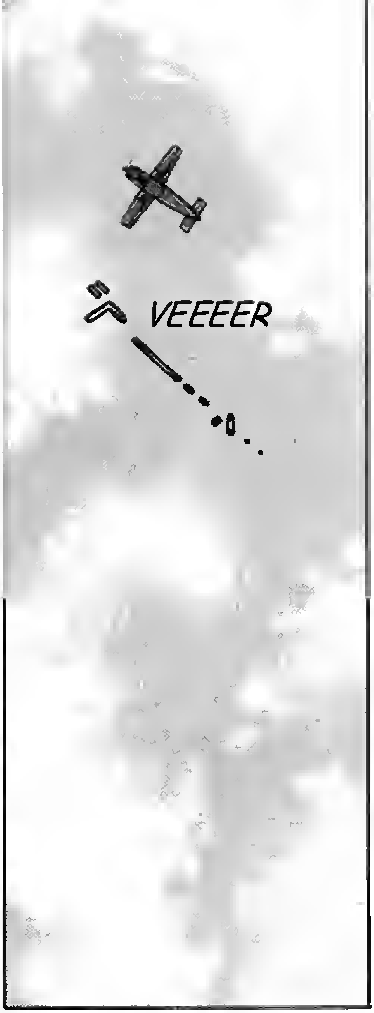
Our main sponsor is the underwear manufacturer. They're supporting us.
We're working on a new frame design, too. The theme is...
Hey Orman, are you really going to do F1?
It's not easy. What about sponsors?
That's rather... abstract, to say the least.
The problem is the engine.
In other words, a penis wearing the colors of an underwear manufacturer will be racing the circuit.
... "Rocket Cock."
Don't worry about it. We'll get two, three engines from Honda.
No matter how good the frame is, we can't get anywhere without a running engine...
...
It's not 100%, but we're moving in that direction.
What, really!?

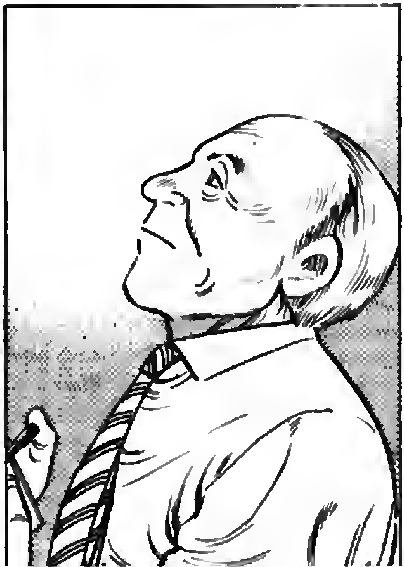
Why don't you toss out those forms and start over, huh?
I want to stay on the team. I'll work for you!
Guess I'll be seeing you. Say hi to your wife for me.
Walt, Orman!
If it's really possible to acquire engines from Honda, I can make up for past mistakes! Please!
A truly wise man would give up heroin before it cripples him.
No matter...
No. You should run your bookstore.
O...Orman!
FLAP
...how strung out he is!
BATANG

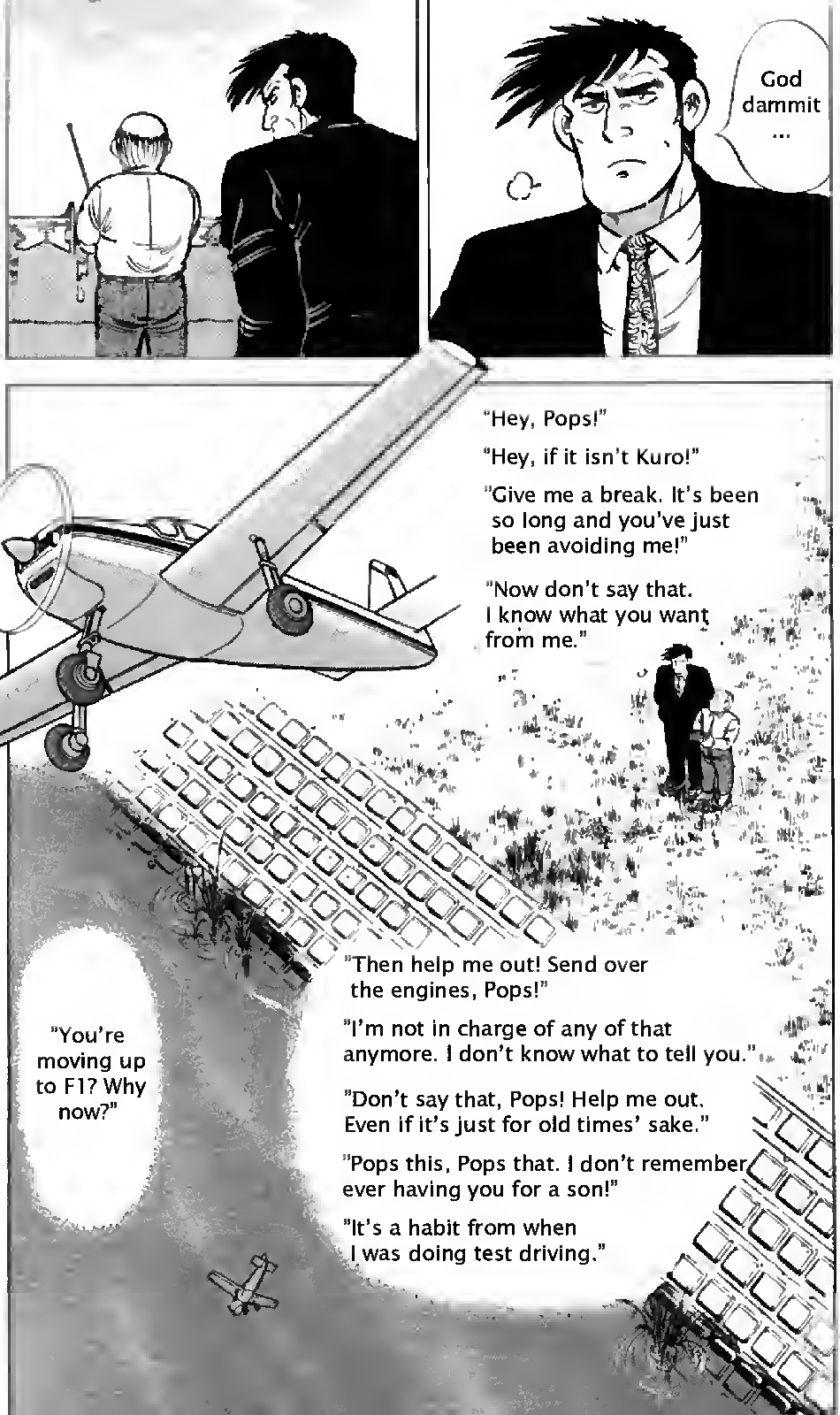

TOKYO

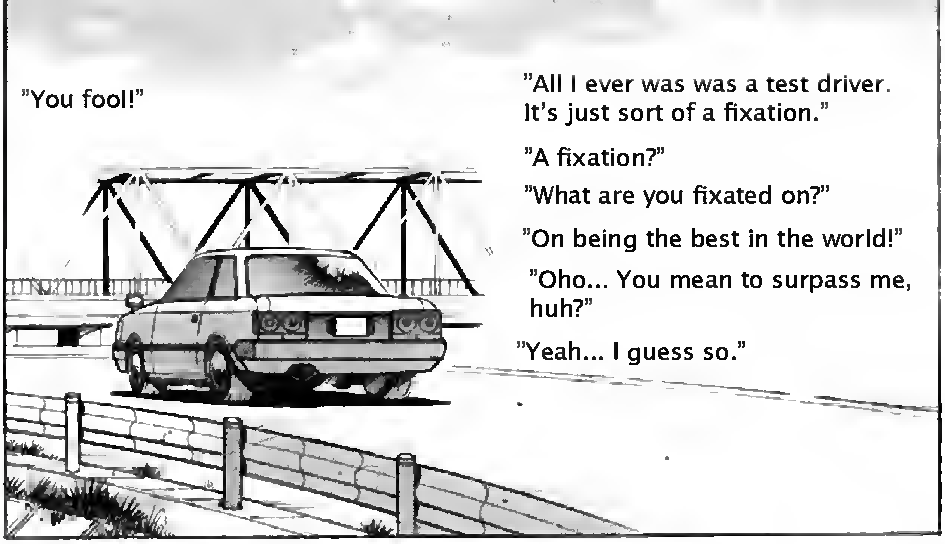
...at the Arakawa, I think. On the river terrace.
The Ara-kawa?
I tried calling his house. Where is he...?
Uhh, today, he is...
Do you have an appoint-ment?
Of course. And I did the last three times, when he ditched out.

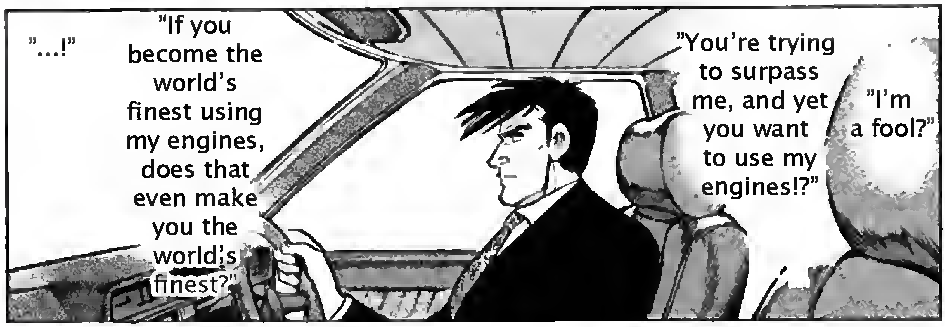



VEEEER

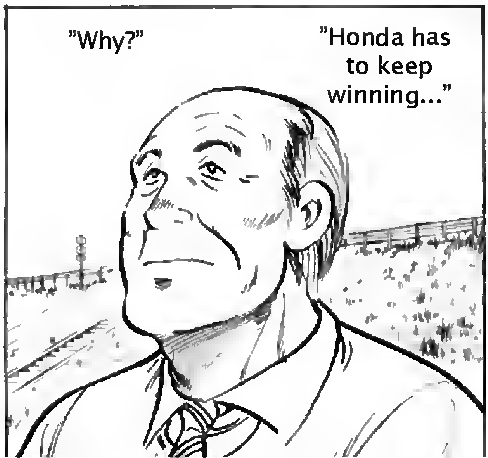


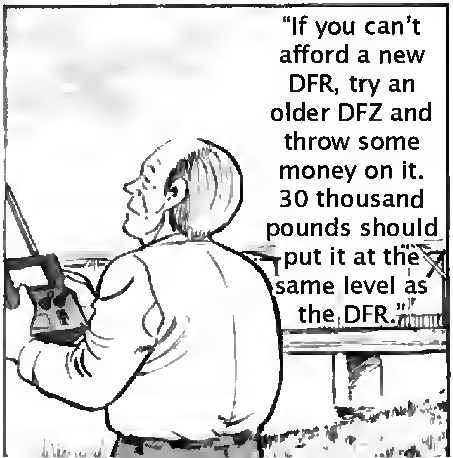

God dammit ...
"Hey, Pops!"
"Hey, if it isn't Kuro!"
"Give me a break. It's been so long and you've just been avoiding me!"
"Now don't say that. I know what you want from me."
"Then help me out! Send over the engines, Pops!"
"I'm not in charge of any of that anymore. I don't know what to tell you."
"Don't say that, Pops! Help me out. Even if it's just for old times' sake."
"Pops this, Pops that. I don't remember ever having you for a son!"
"It's a habit from when I was doing test driving."
"You're moving up to F1? Why now?"

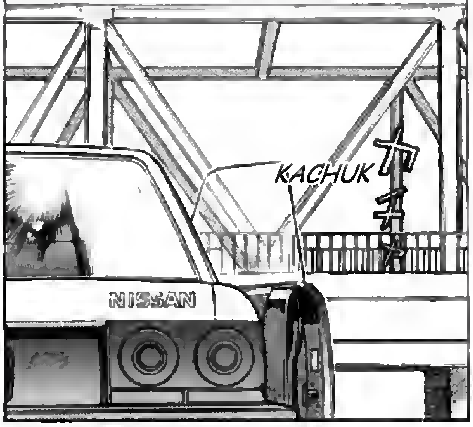

"You fool!"
"All I ever was was a test driver. It's just sort of a fixation."
"A fixation?"
"What are you fixated on?"
"On being the best in the world!"
"Oho... You mean to surpass me, huh?"
"Yeah... I guess so."

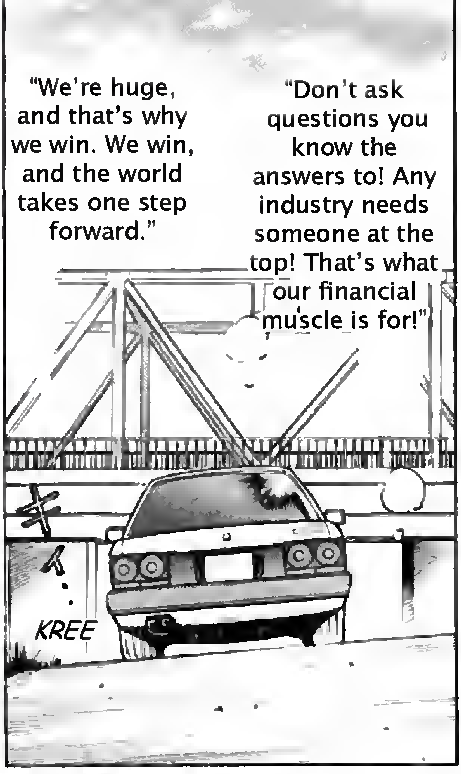

"...!"
"If you become the world's finest using my engines, does that even make you the world's finest?"
"You're trying to surpass me, and yet you want to use my engines!?"
"I'm a fool?"

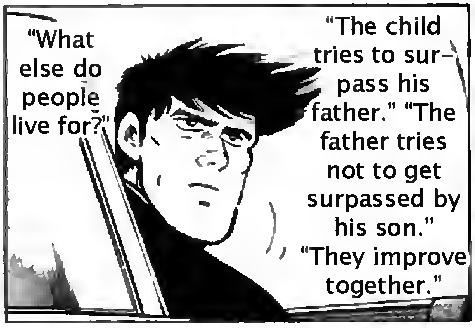
"Use a Cosworth DFR, they aren't half bad. I don't know what kind of frame you're working with, but Tyrrell has proved their power."
"I mean, I guess not, but I can't just make engines..."

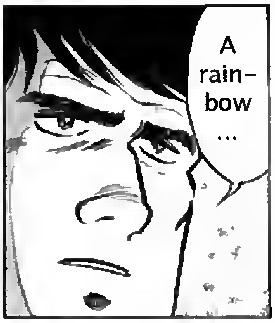

"Why?"
"Honda has to keep winning..."

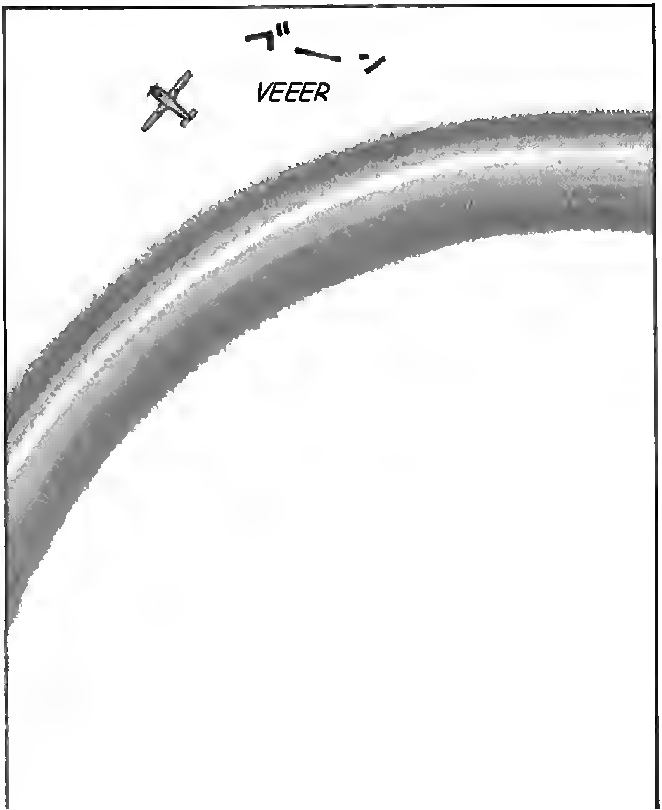

"If you can't afford a new DFR, try an older DFZ and throw some money on it. 30 thousand pounds should put it at the same level as the DFR."

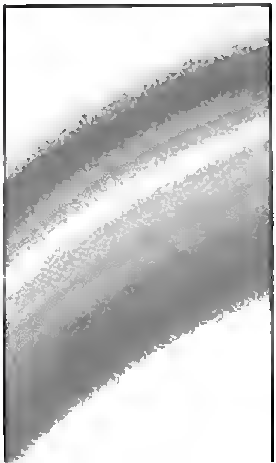

KACHUK
NISSAN

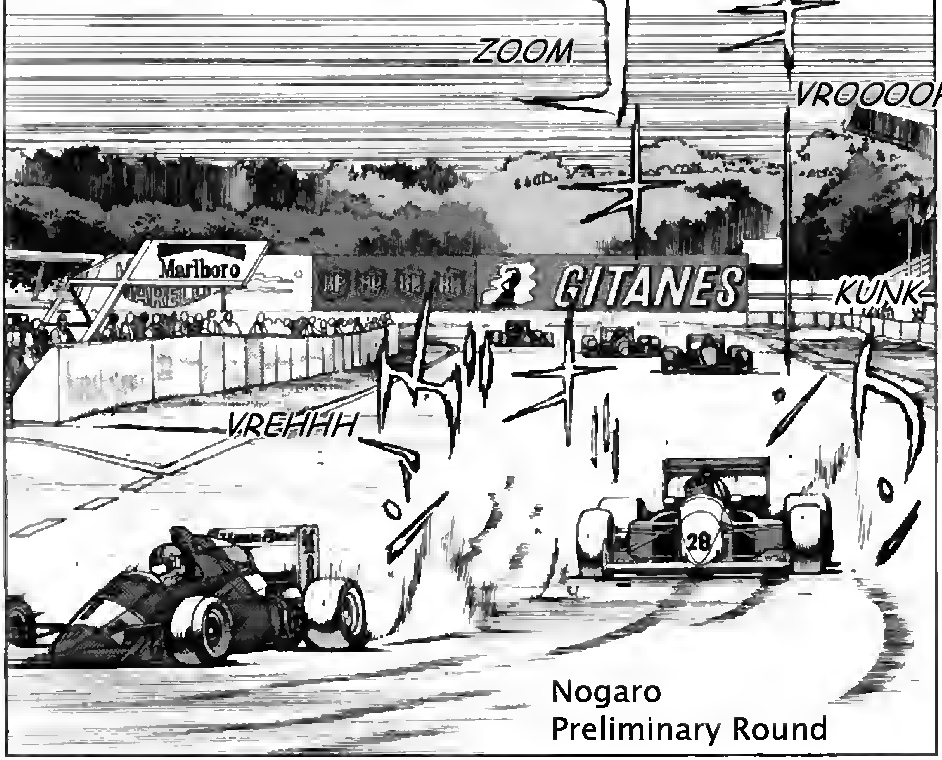

"We're huge, and that's why we win. We win, and the world takes one step forward."
"Don't ask questions you know the answers to! Any industry needs someone at the top! That's what our financial muscle is for!"
KREE

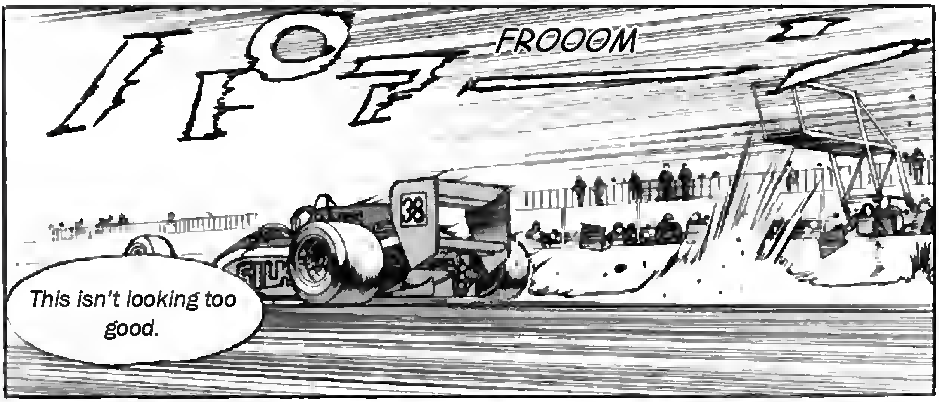

"What else do people live for?"
"The child tries to surpass his father." "The father tries not to get surpassed by his son." "They improve together."


A rainbow ...


VEEER

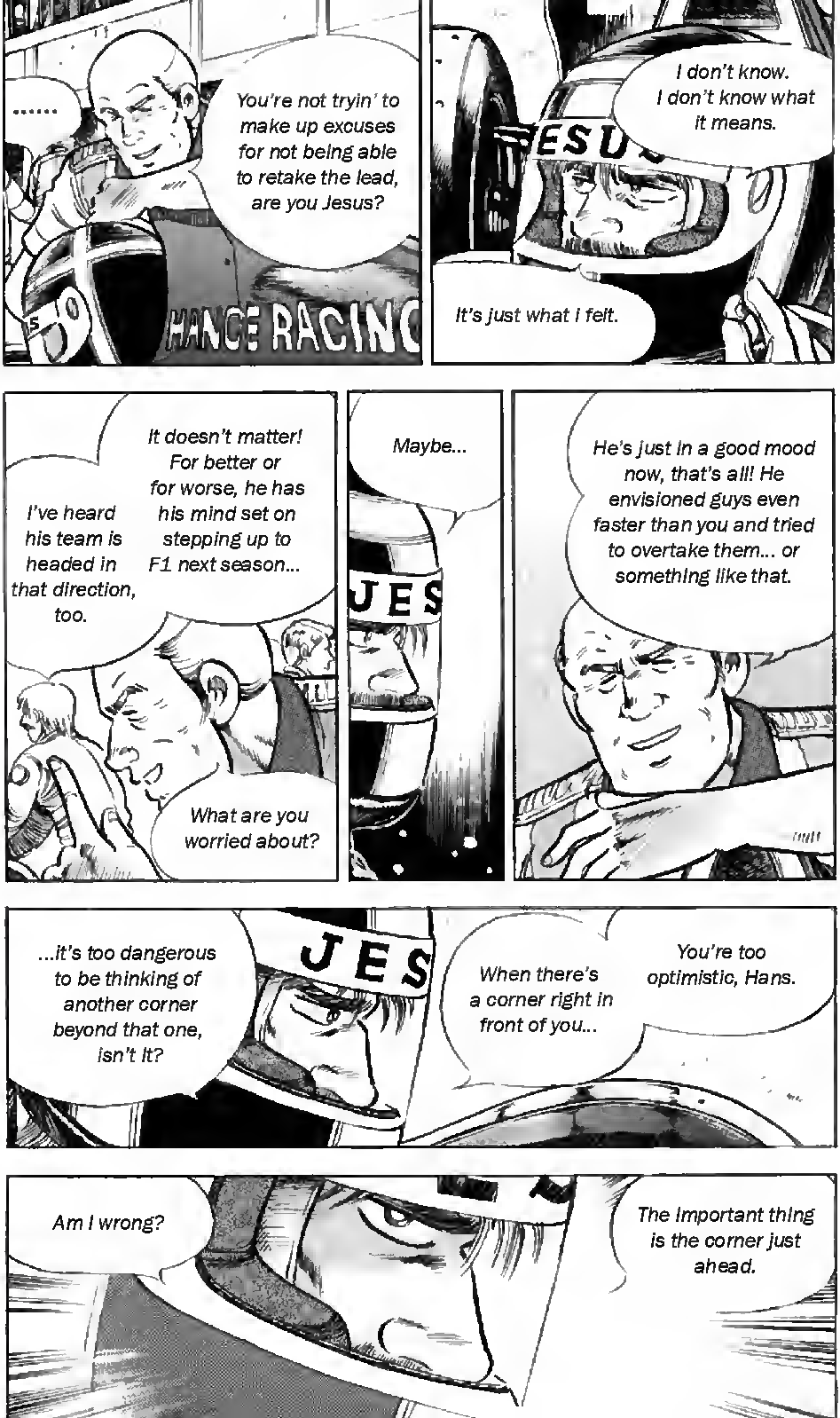



ZOOM
VROOOOH
Marlboro
GITANES
KUNK
VREHHH
28
Nogaro
Preliminary Round

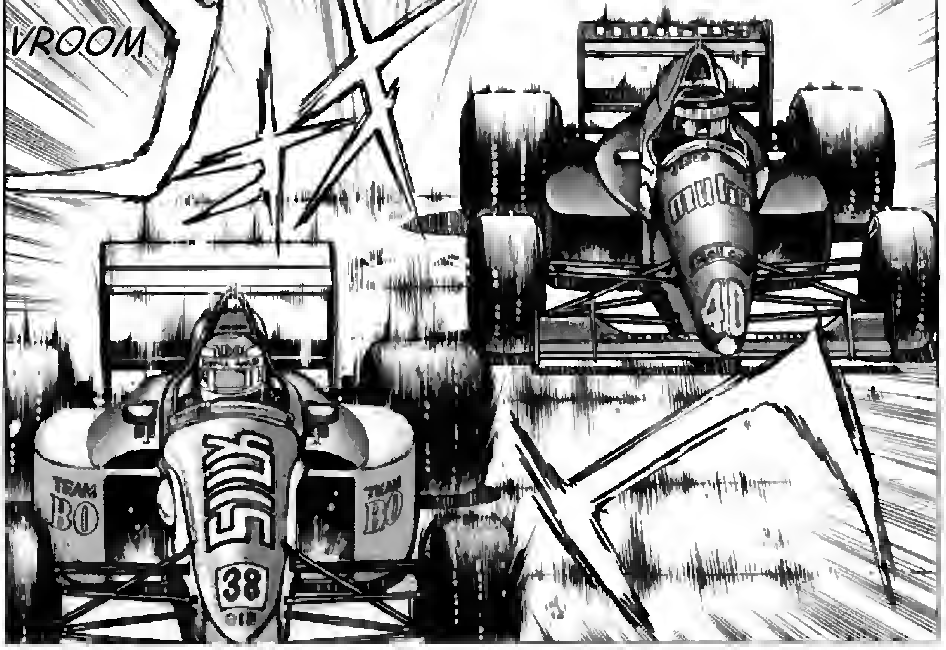

FROOOM
38
This isn't looking too good.

It's Gunma Akagi...
What's the matter?
Lucas

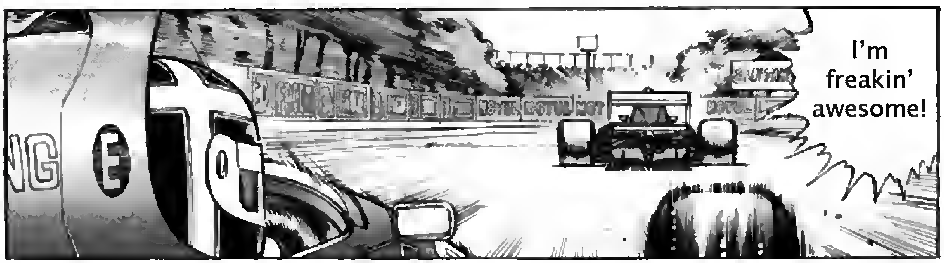
For example, if I'm in the lead, and he's behind me in second...
Come on. Another one of your hunches?
No, but...
What about him?
He puts me in a bad spot.
Normally, if you're trying to pass the guy in first, you're thinking, "this'll put me in the lead," right?
Like the last race at Le Mans, when he passed you with ease...?
VROOM
What are you saying? What does that even mean?
Right. Normally.
But that's not the case for him. When he passed me, I thought for a moment that maybe I was in fifth or sixth.


.....
You're not tryin' to make up excuses for not being able to retake the lead, are you Jesus?
I don't know. I don't know what it means.
It's just what I felt.
I've heard his team is headed in that direction, too.
It doesn't matter! For better or for worse, he has his mind set on stepping up to F1 next season...
What are you worried about?
Maybe...
He's just in a good mood now, that's all! He envisioned guys even faster than you and tried to overtake them... or something like that.
...it's too dangerous to be thinking of another corner beyond that one, isn't it?
When there's a corner right in front of you...
You're too optimistic, Hans.
Am I wrong?
The important thing is the corner just ahead.

...
JESUS
All right, then.
All right! Then prove it!
It's not that I couldn't retake the lead, it's that I didn't...
HANCERC
BREEEHHH
HANCERC
VROOOM
BO
GUNMA AKAGI
KSHHH
I'm about to make good time...

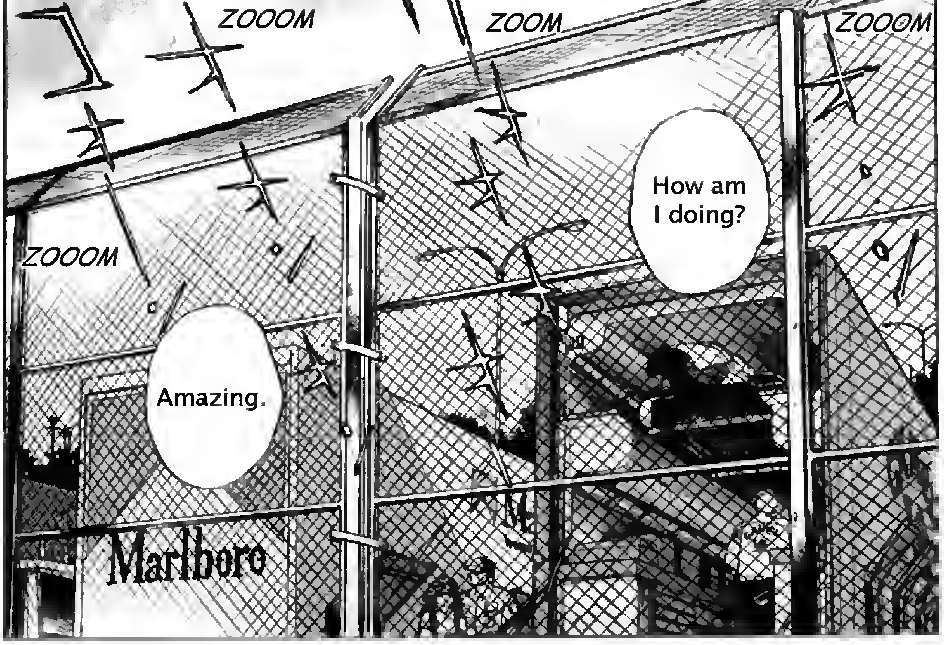

VROOM
TEAM BO
38
40

The pole is mine!
MA AKAGI
See ya, Jesus!

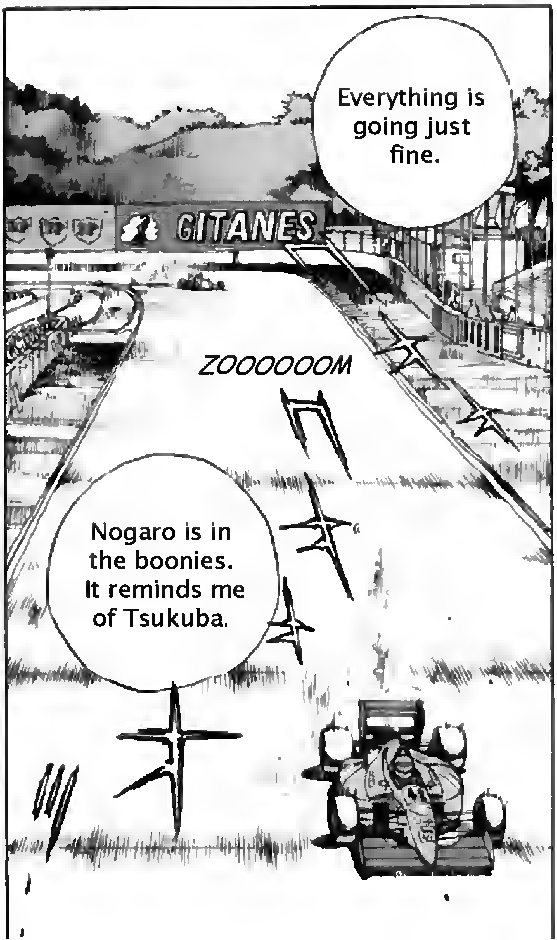

I'm freakin' awesome!

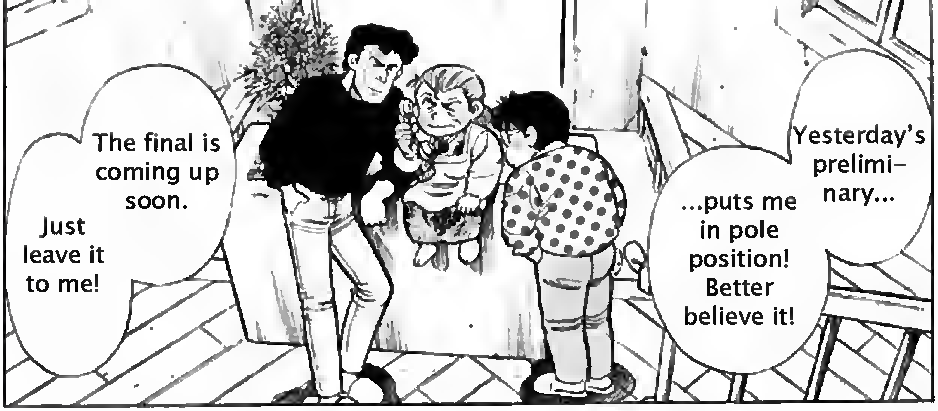
It's a nuisance to other racers...
JESUS
You drive like a maniac...

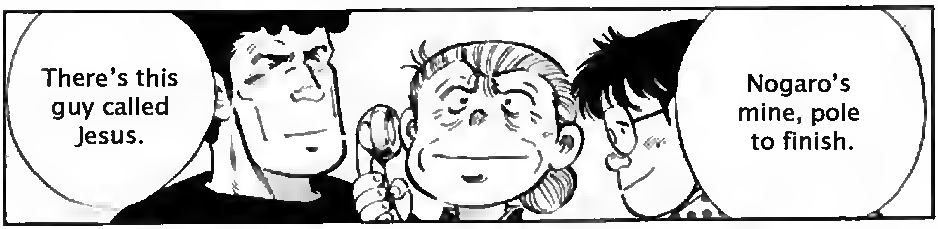
Chapter 7: Uphill

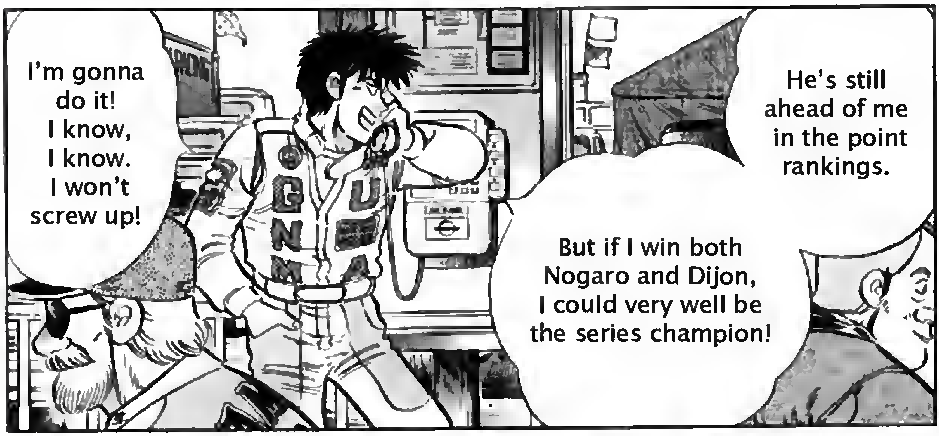

ZOOOM
ZOOM
ZOOOM
ZOOOM
How am I doing?
Amazing.
Marlboro

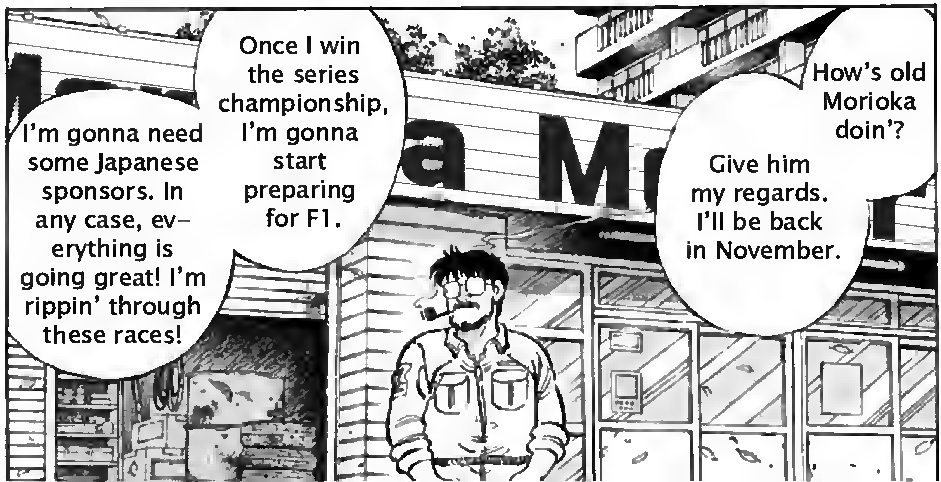
It reminds me of your apartment, Granny...
...when I was just starting to race...


Everything is going just fine.
GITANES
ZOOOOOOM
Nogaro is in the boonies. It reminds me of Tsukuba.

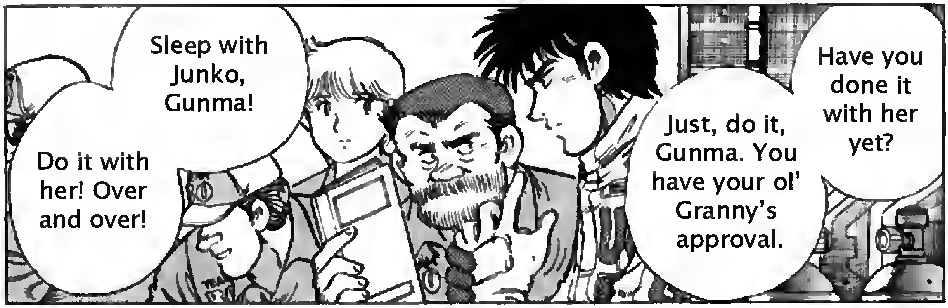

The final is coming up soon.
Just leave it to me!
Yesterday's preliminary...
...puts me in pole position! Better believe it!


There's this guy called Jesus.
Nogaro's mine, pole to finish.

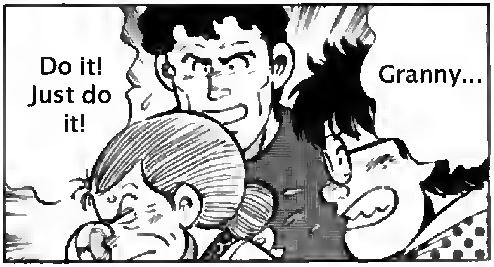

I'm gonna do it! I know, I know. I won't screw up!
He's still ahead of me in the point rankings.
But if I win both Nogaro and Dijon, I could very well be the series champion!


I'm gonna need some Japanese sponsors. In any case, everything is going great! I'm rippin' through these races!
Once I win the series championship, I'm gonna start preparing for F1.
How's old Morioka doin'?
Give him my regards. I'll be back in November.

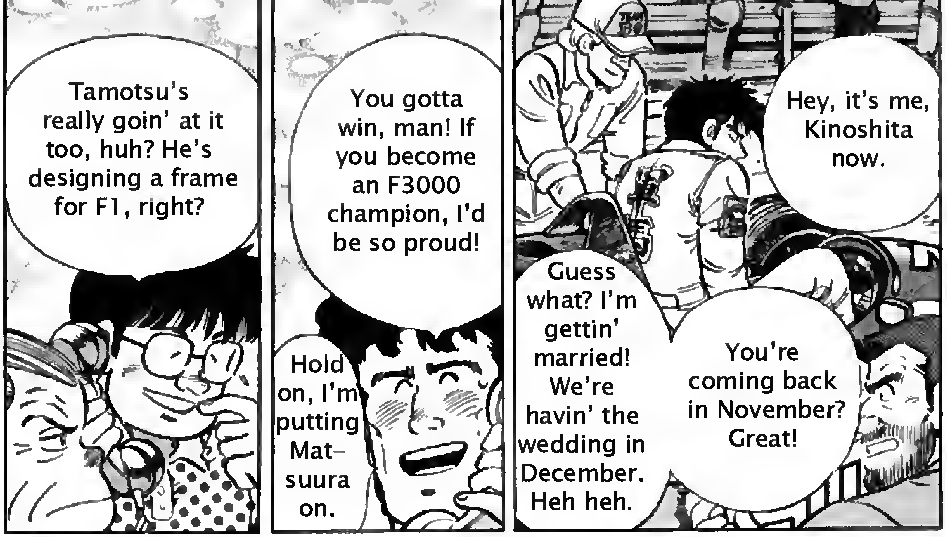
My late husband used to say the same.
I'm saying this out of concern. It's when you're doing well that you need to exercise the most self-control.
How's Junko doing, by the way?
Don't get too confident, Gunma.


Sleep with Junko, Gunma!
Do it with her! Over and over!
Just, do it, Gunma. You have your ol' Granny's approval.
Have you done it with her yet?

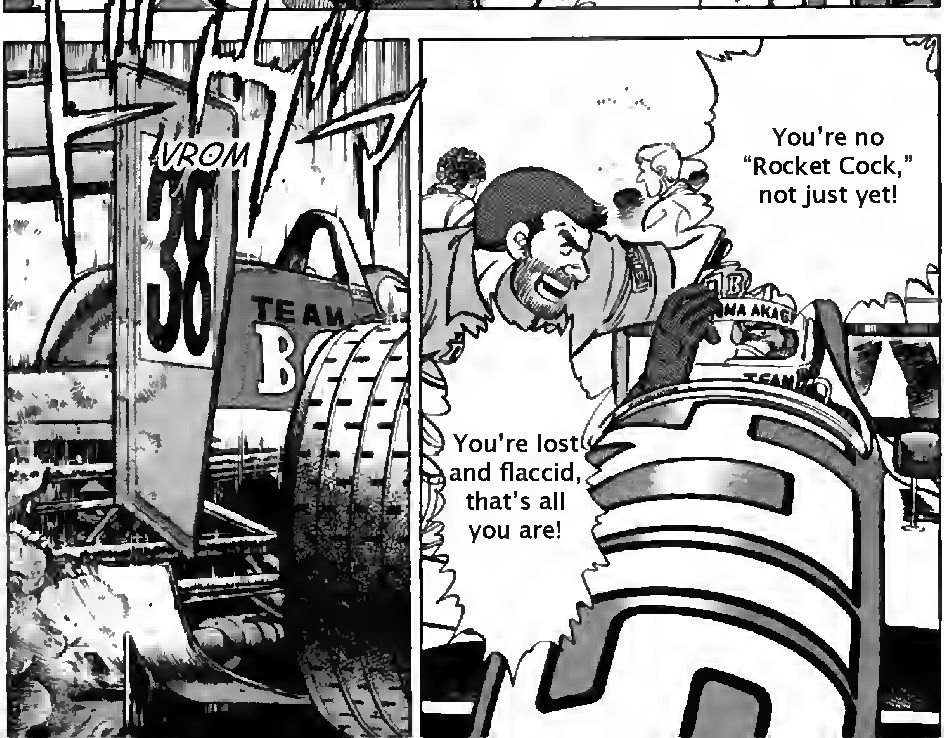
I hate to see her miserable.

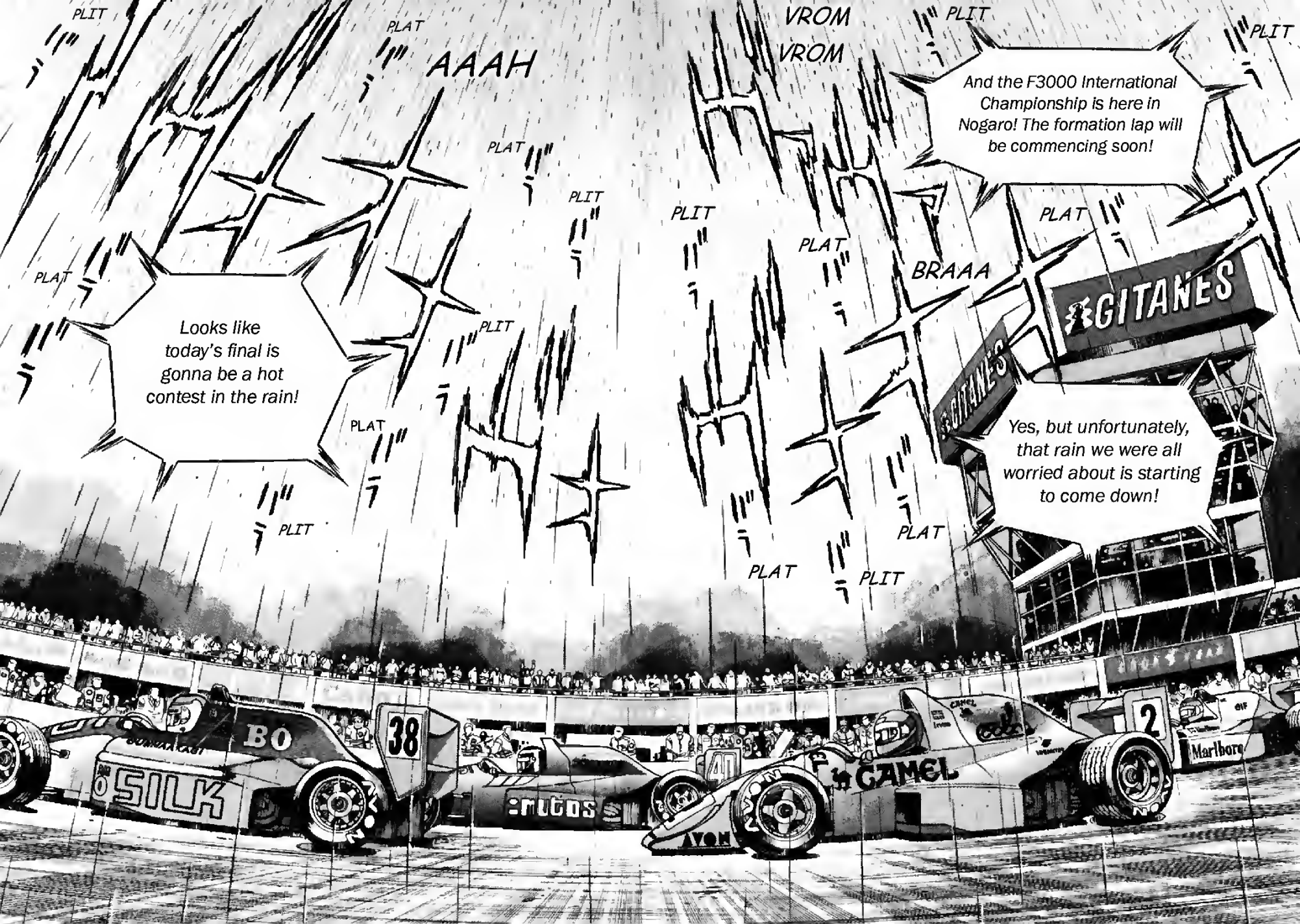

Do it! Just do it!
Granny...

Granny!
Forget your reasons. Love her with the same energy you use when you race!
But listen, Gunma...
You may have your own reasons...


Tamotsu's really goin' at it too, huh? He's designing a frame for F1, right?
You gotta win, man! If you become an F3000 champion, I'd be so proud!
Hold on, I'm putting Mat-suura on.
Hey, it's me, Kinoshita now.
Guess what? I'm gettin' married! We're havin' the wedding in December. Heh heh.
You're coming back in November? Great!

What is all this "Rocket Cock" business?
GUNMA!
I freakin' love the theme. "Rocket Cock." It suits you perfectly, Gunma!
Gunma, I'll say this once.
It's Granny again!


38
You're no "Rocket Cock," not just yet!
You're lost and flaccid, that's all you are!


PLIT
PLAT
AAAH
PLAT
PLIT
PLAT
PLIT
PLAT
PLIT
Looks like today's final is gonna be a hot contest in the rain!
VROM
VROM
PLIT
PLIT
And the F3000 International Championship is here in Nogaro! The formation lap will be commencing soon!
PLIT
PLAT
PLAT
BRAAA
GITANES
GITANES
Yes, but unfortunately, that rain we were all worried about is starting to come down!
PLAT
PLAT
PLIT
38
SILK
40
mtds
AVON
CAMEL
2
Marlboro

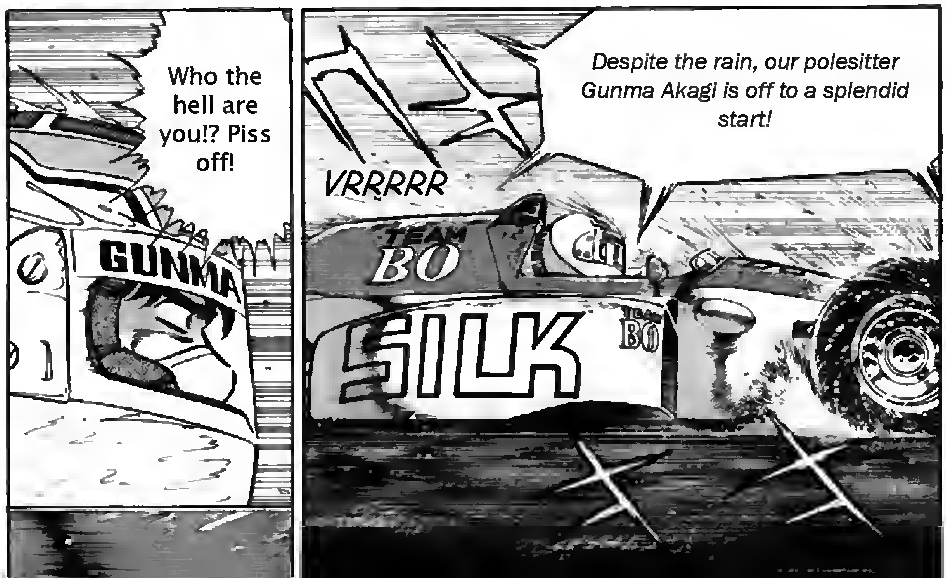
VROM
VROM
PLIT
PLIT
And the F3000 International Championship is here in Nogaro! The formation lap will be commencing soon!
PLIT
PLAT
PLAT
BRAAA
GITANES
GITANES
Yes, but unfortunately, that rain we were all worried about is starting to come down!
PLAT
PLAT
PLIT
CAMEL
Marlboro
AVON

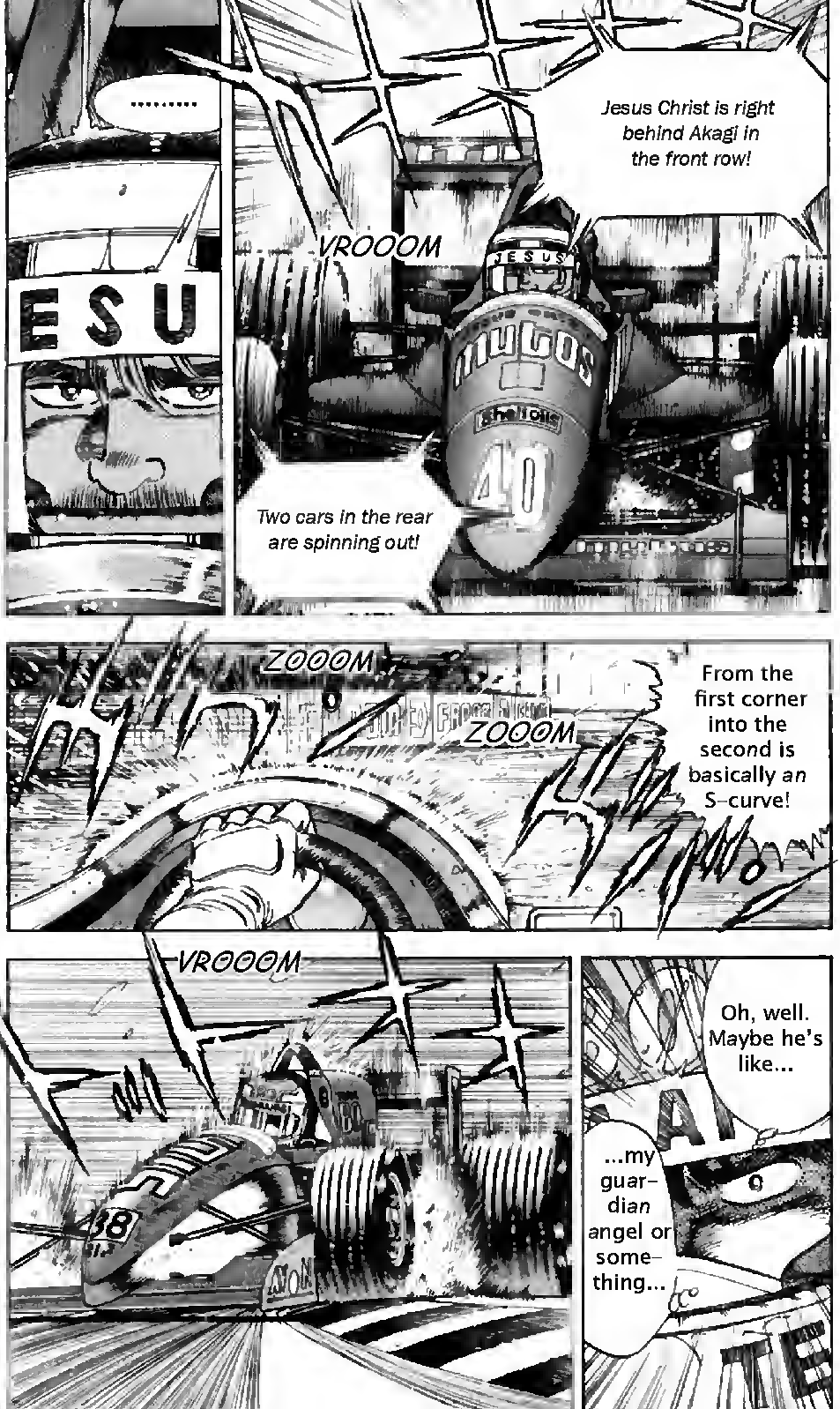
PLIT
PLAT
AAAH
PLAT
PLIT
PLAT
Looks like today's final is gonna be a hot contest in the rain!
PLIT
PLAT
PLIT
38
SILK
mtos

...
Go as far as the slick can take you!
I'll get the tire changes over with early!
Doesn't look like the rain will let up any time soon.
VROM
Along with the sudden rain comes a cloud of fog!
These aren't good racing conditions, folks!
Nine of the cars are equipped with slick tires!
We're gonna see a lot of trouble in this race!
VROM
VROM
It's... it's fog!
VROM
Marlboro
Oh my...
VROM

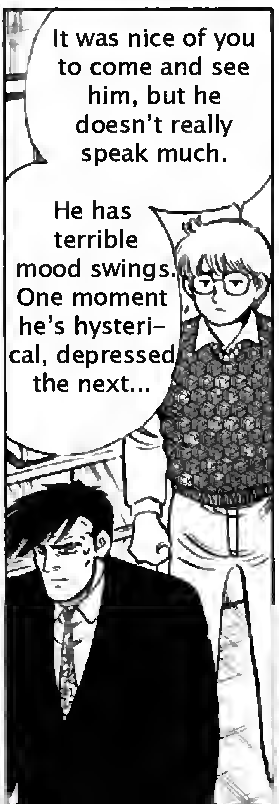
FSHHH
The signal is about to turn green!
Kinoshi-ta... He's gettin' married, huh?
FSHHH
Tsk. Lost and flaccid...
Shouldn't even called... That old hag...
VRRRRR
It's all right.
It's all right. I'm doing awesome.
BRAAAAAH
...and there's a car... in front of me!?
We haven't even started yet ...
Hey, whoa. What is this?
FLICK
Get outta my sight!
VRR VRR-VRR-VRR
Get out of here, you son of a...
Come on... you gotta be kidding me!

VROOM
GO!
ZOOOOOM
38

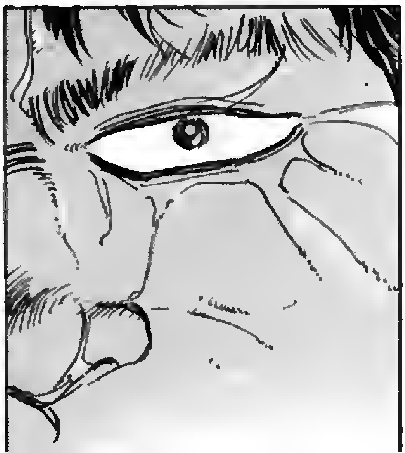

Who the hell are you!? Piss off!
GUNMA
Despite the rain, our polesitter Gunma Akagi is off to a splendid start!
VRRRRR
TEAM BO
SILK


.....
ESU
VROOOM
JESUS
40
Jesus Christ is right behind Akagi in the front row!
Two cars in the rear are spinning out!
ZOOOM
ZOOOM
From the first corner into the second is basically an S-curve!
VROOOM
38
Oh, well. Maybe he's like...
...my guardian angel or something...

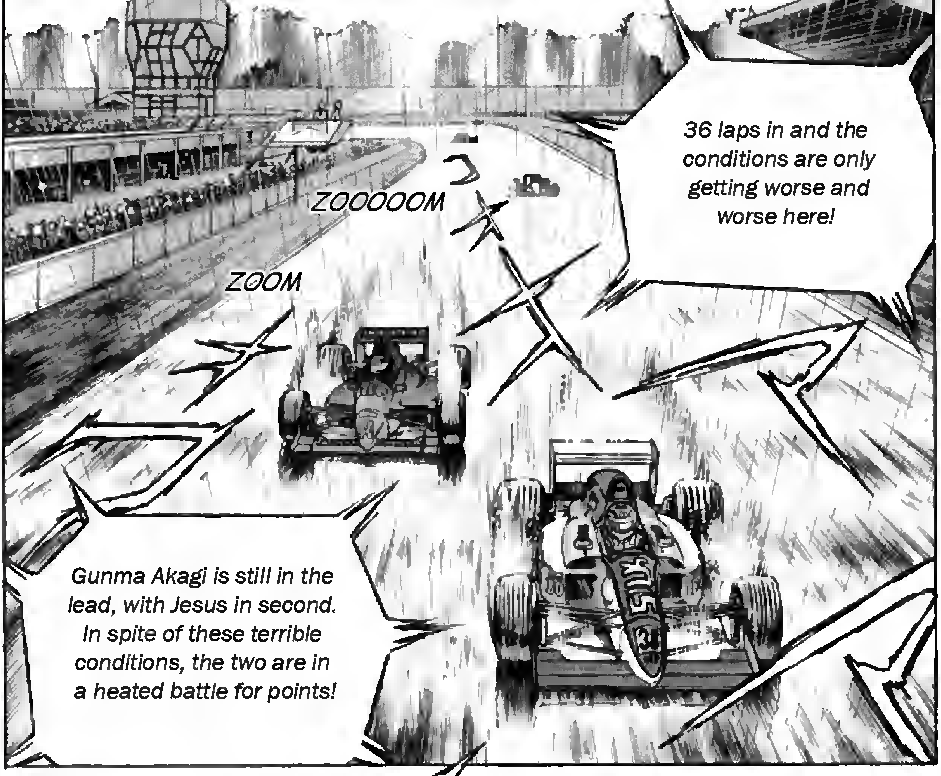
It's understandable...

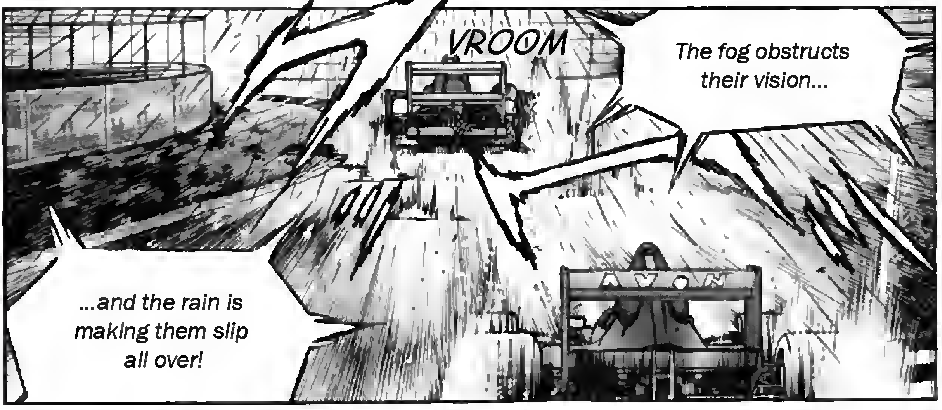

It was nice of you to come and see him, but he doesn't really speak much.
He has terrible mood swings. One moment he's hysterical, depressed the next...

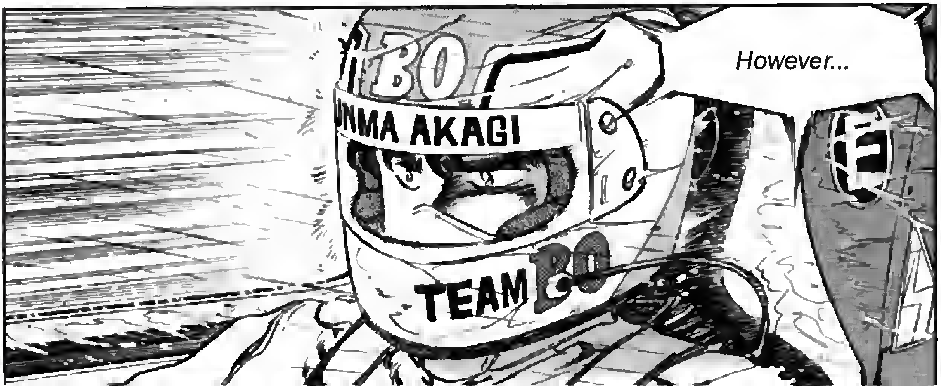
How you feelin'?
Hey.

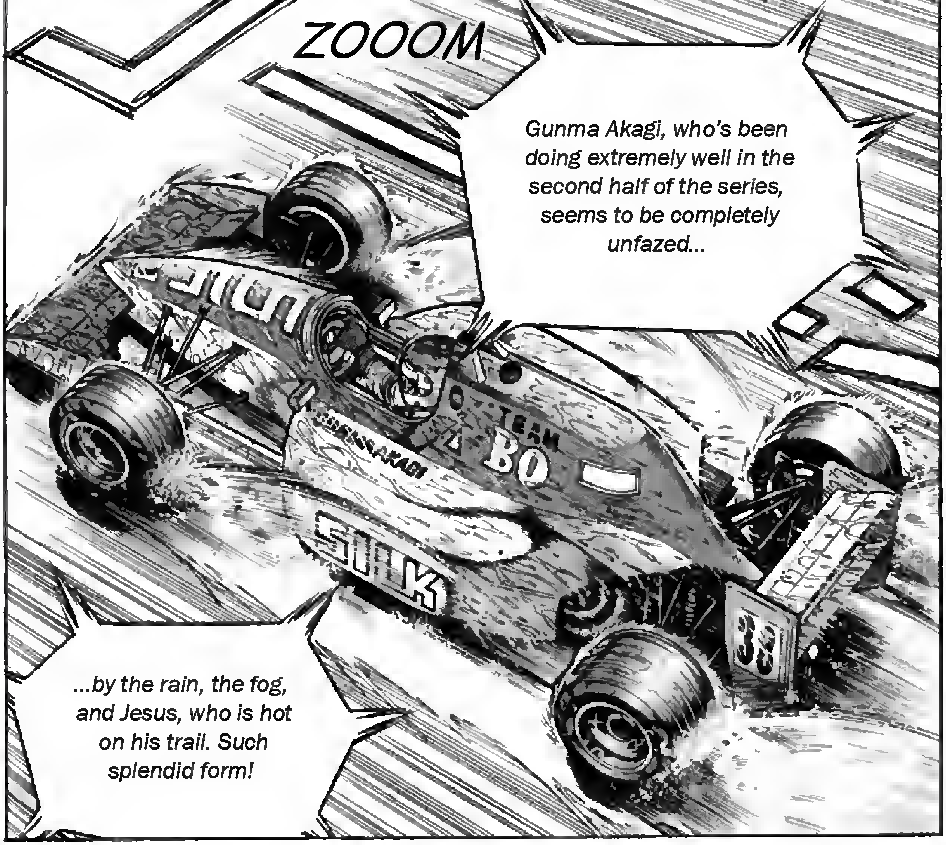


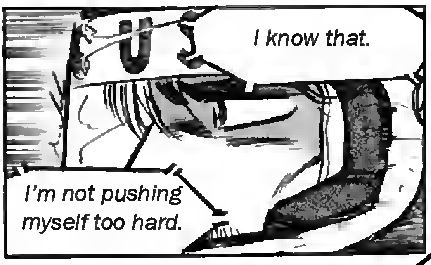
There's nothing to worry about. He'll be back up in no time!
The only concern is his mental health...
The doctor says that he'll make a complete recovery after a number of skin transplants.
He's no longer at risk of infection.
!
Oto-ya...
...it was unfair?
Do you think...
...and I'm the only one who's been dealt a bad hand... Keh keh... Keh...
He just keeps smooth sailing...
The world has a way of evening itself out...
Just watch. I'll make him understand. Keh heh...
But actually...
That's not necessarily so... Keh heh...

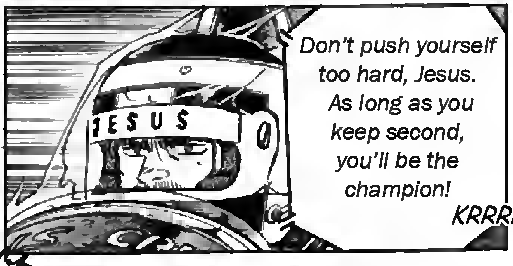

ZOOOOOM
ZOOM
36 laps in and the conditions are only getting worse and worse here!
Gunma Akagi is still in the lead, with Jesus in second. In spite of these terrible conditions, the two are in a heated battle for points!


VROOM
The fog obstructs their vision...
...and the rain is making them slip all over!

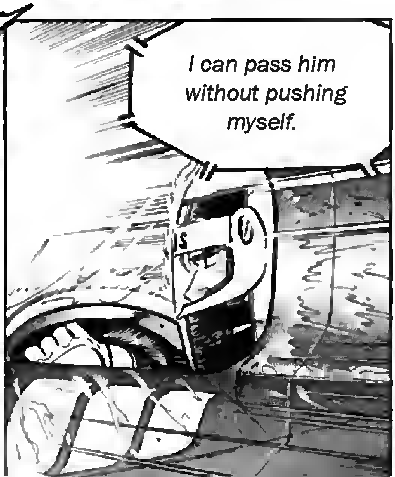

However...
TEAM BO

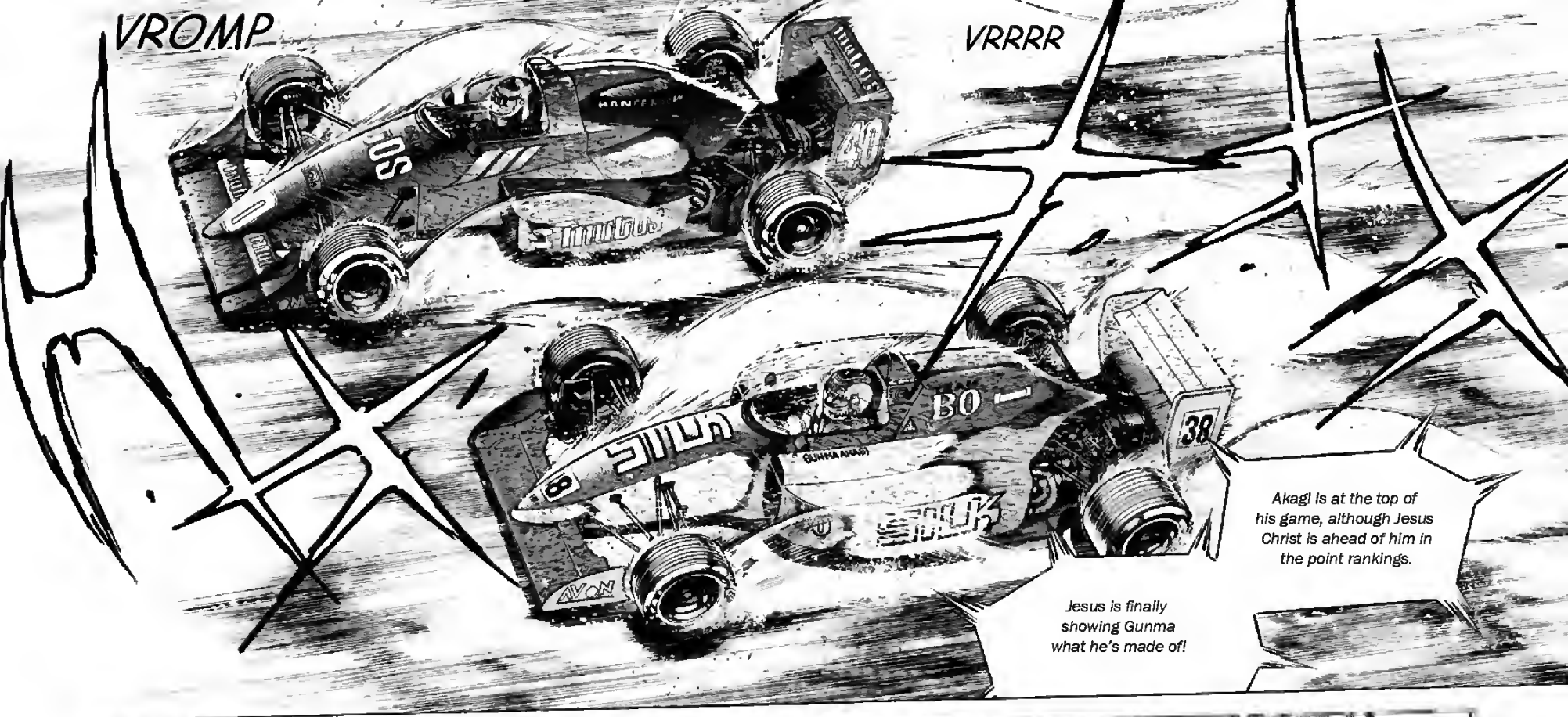

ZOOOM
Gunma Akagi, who's been doing extremely well in the second half of the series, seems to be completely unfazed...
TEAM
BO
SUNK
38
...by the rain, the fog, and Jesus, who is hot on his trail. Such splendid form!


I know that.
I'm not pushing myself too hard.


JESUS
Don't push yourself too hard, Jesus. As long as you keep second, you'll be the champion!
KRRRR

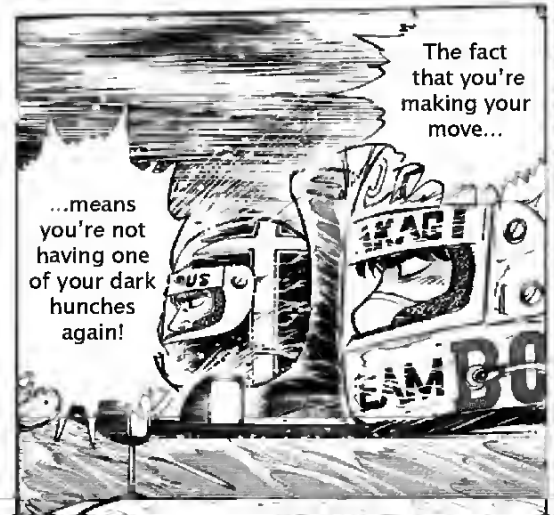
VRRRR
Whoa! Here comes Jesus!
40


I can pass him without pushing myself.

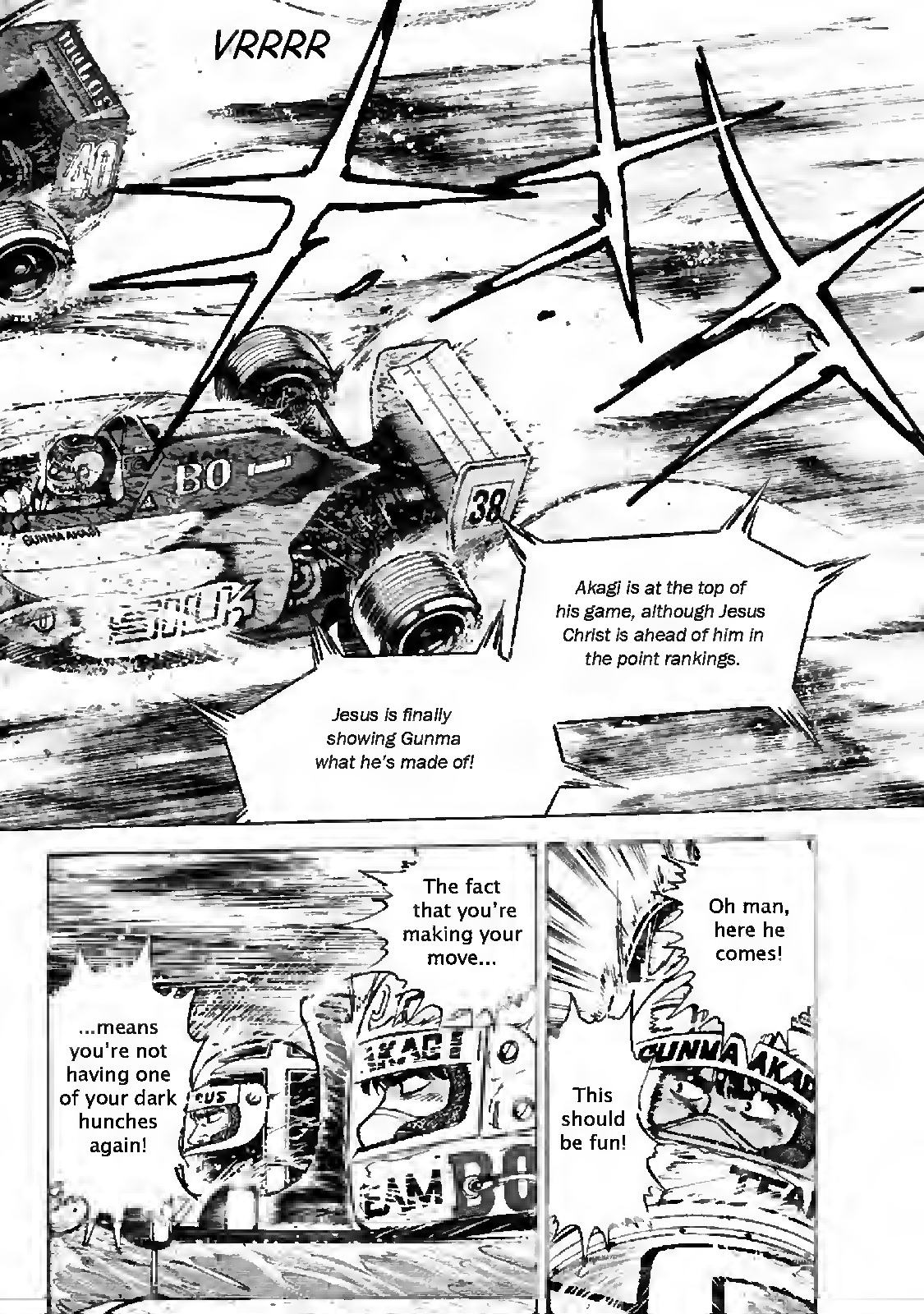

VROMP
VRRRR
40
38
BO
GUNMA AKAGI
Jesus is finally showing Gunma what he's made of!
Akagi is at the top of his game, although Jesus Christ is ahead of him in the point rankings.

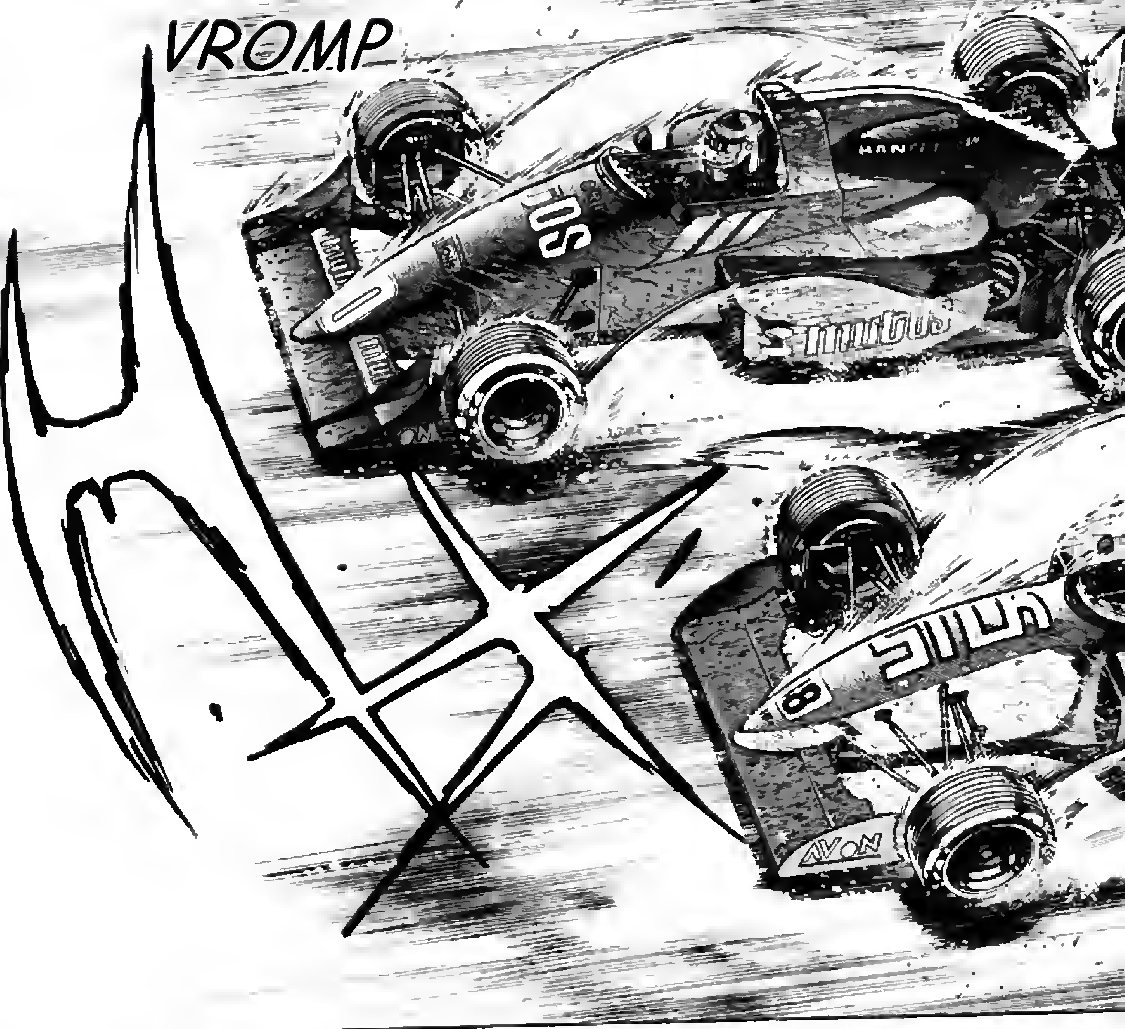
...
SUS

FWOOOOH
I ain't backin' down!


...means you're not having one of your dark hunches again!
The fact that you're making your move...
AKAGI
SUS
BO

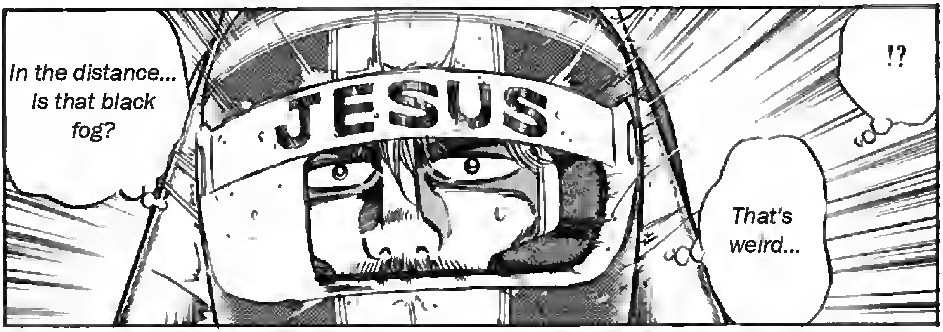
This should be fun!
Oh man, here he comes!
GUNMA AKAGI

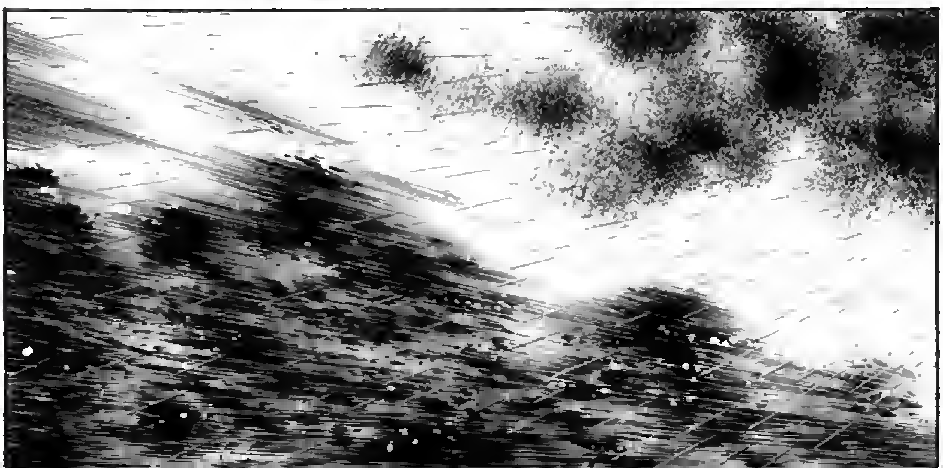

VRRRR
38
GUNMA AKAGI
Akagi is at the top of his game, although Jesus Christ is ahead of him in the point rankings.
Jesus is finally showing Gunma what he's made of!
The fact that you're making your move...
...means you're not having one of your dark hunches again!
Oh man, here he comes!
This should be fun!


VROMP
AVON

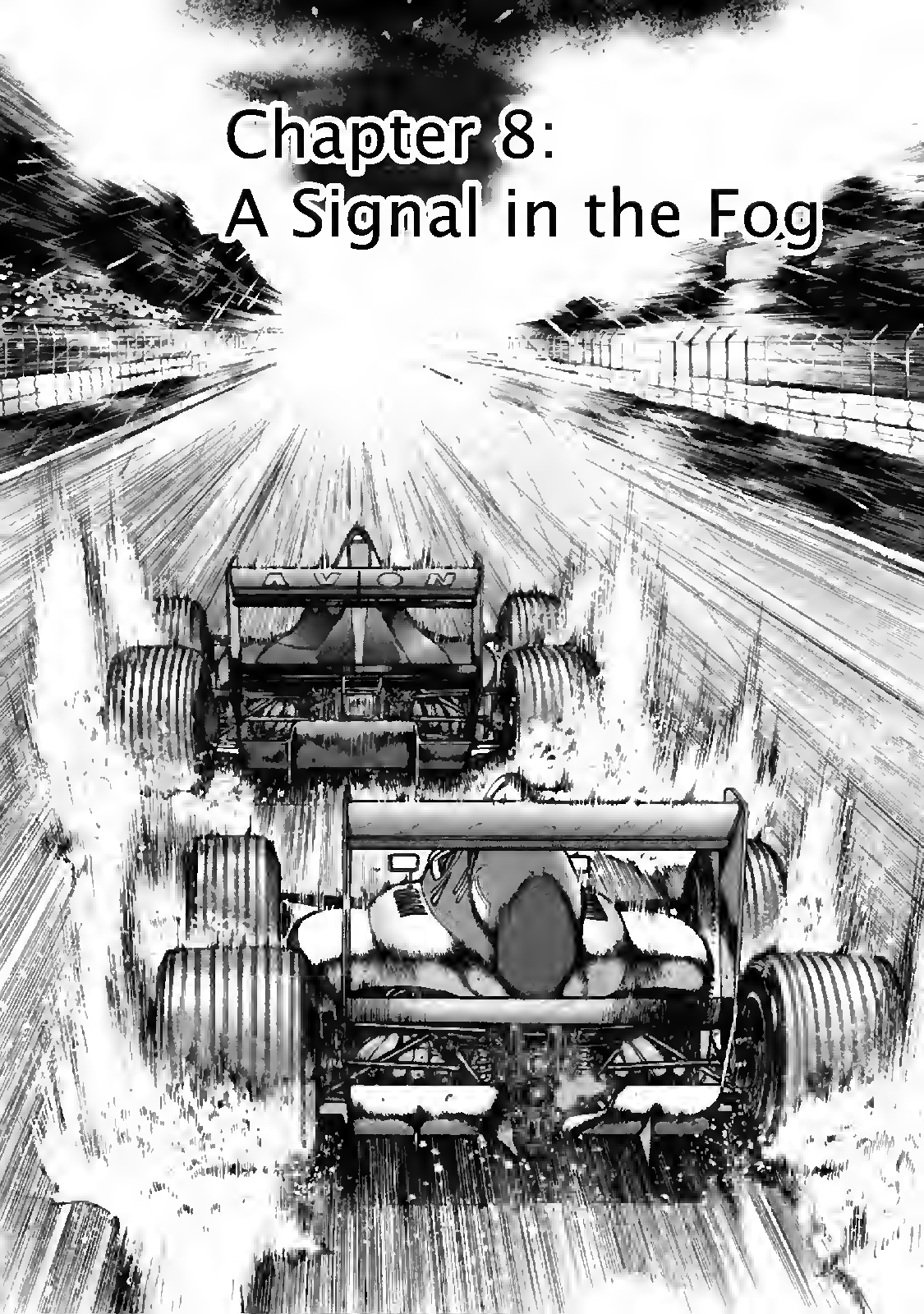
...
SUS
I ain't backin' down!
FWOOOOH
AVON

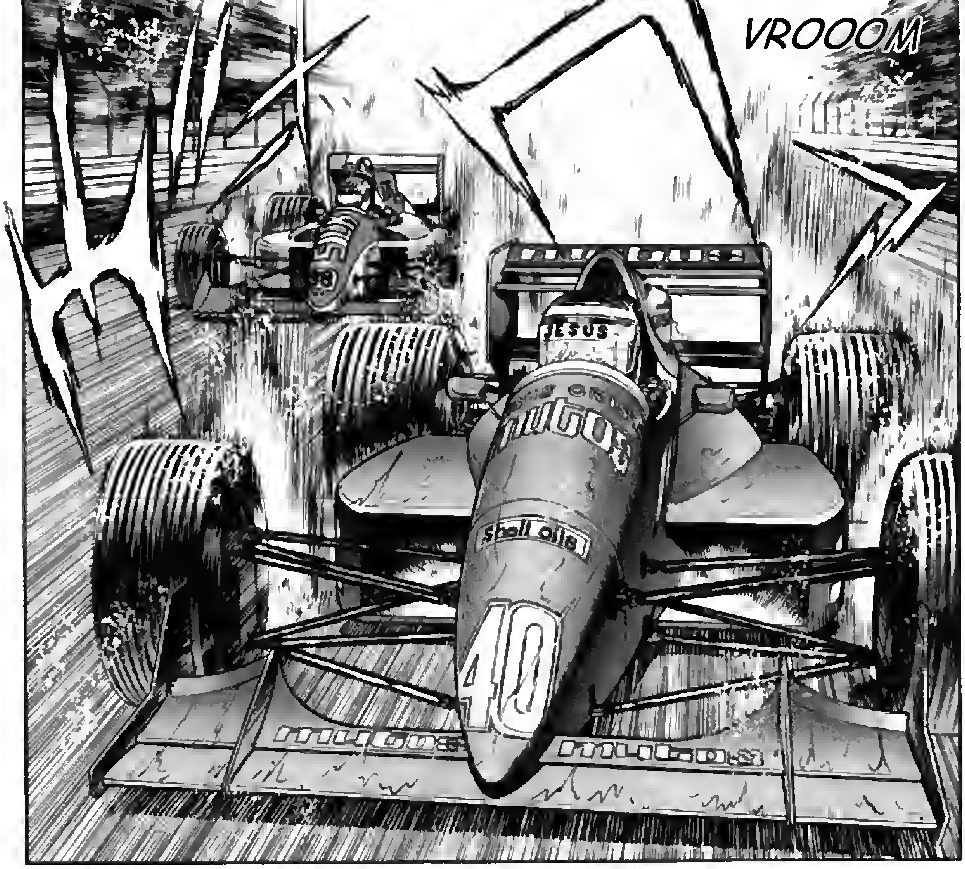
KREE
Gunma Akagi is making a move to take back first place!
AKAGI!
V.RRR
We have a new man in the lead, folks! But the battle isn't over yet!
GITA


In the distance... Is that black fog?
JESUS
!?
That's weird...

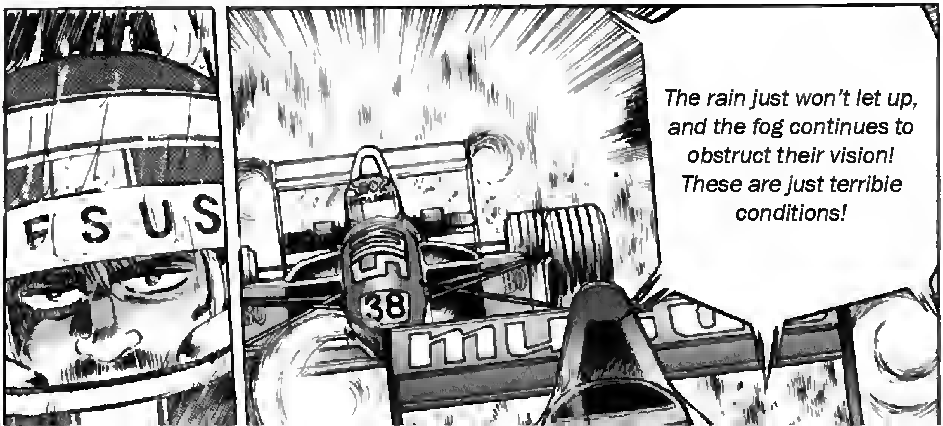


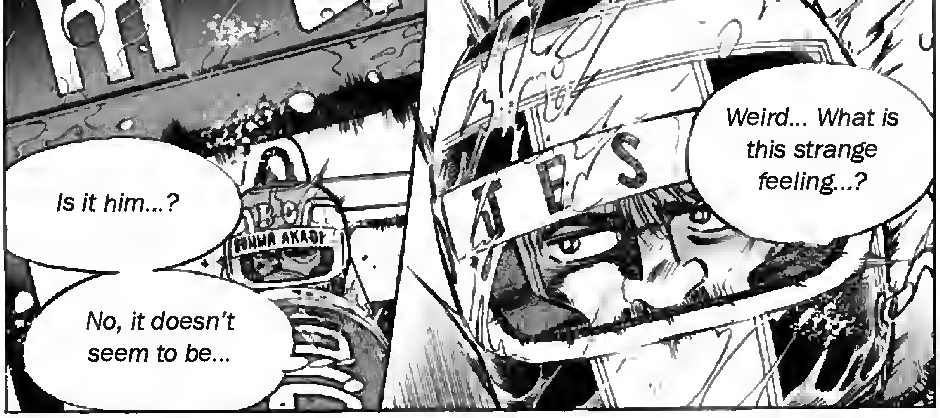
Chapter 8:
A Signal in the Fog

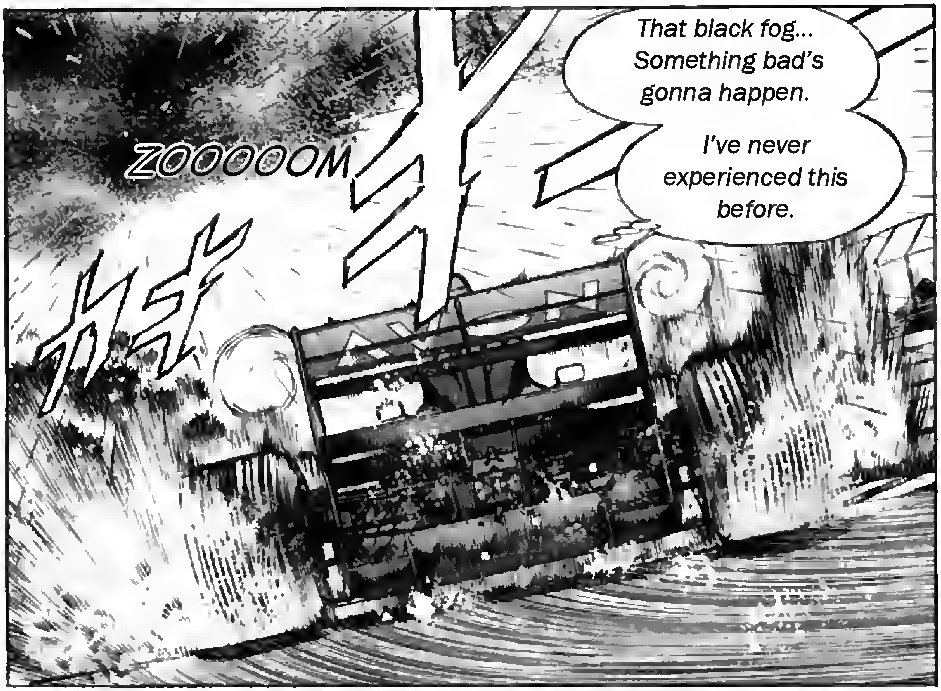


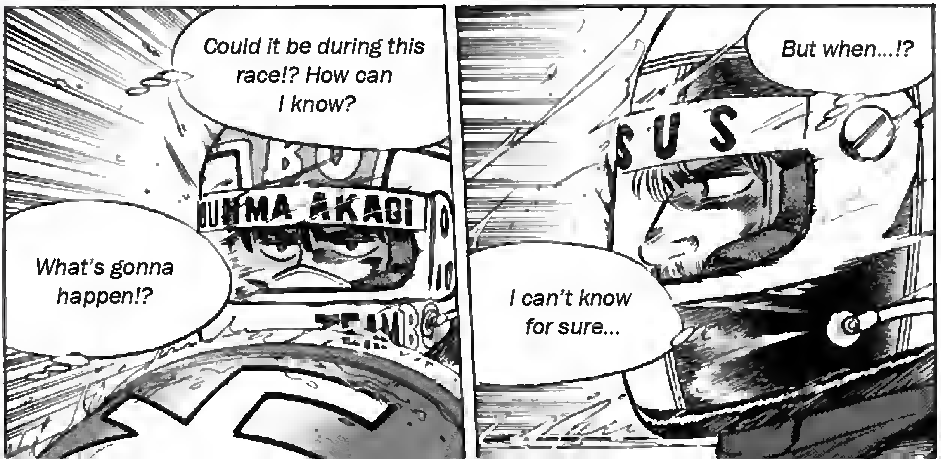

VROOOM
JESUS
Shell oils
40

We're entering the 42nd lap of the Nogaro GP! Jesus Christ is still in the lead! Just 1.5 seconds behind is Gunma Akagi! The heated battle continues!

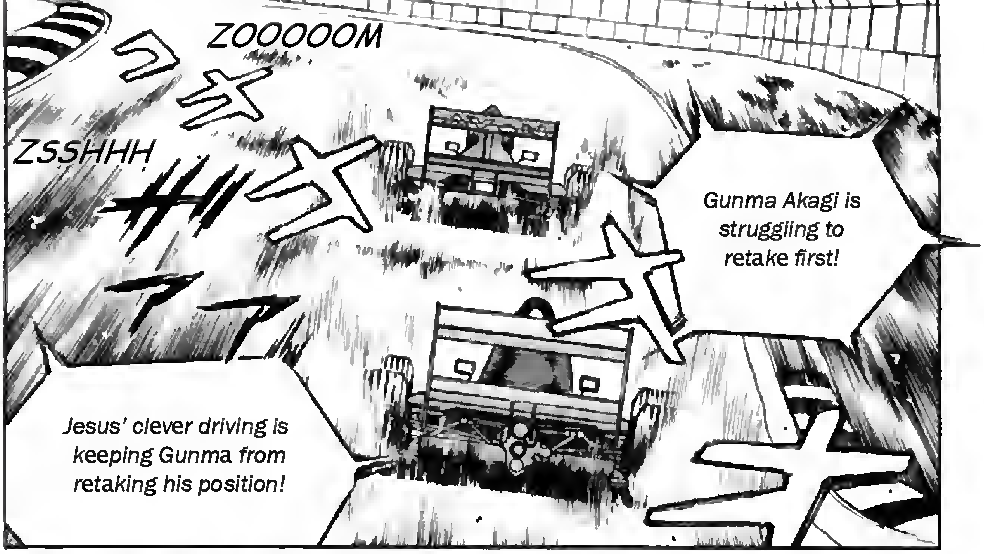

F S U S
38
The rain just won't let up, and the fog continues to obstruct their vision! These are just terrible conditions!


Is it him...?
No, it doesn't seem to be...
Weird... What is this strange feeling...?


ZOOOOOM
That black fog... Something bad's gonna happen.
I've never experienced this before.


Could it be during this race!? How can I know?
What's gonna happen!?
But when...!?
I can't know for sure...

Gunma Akagi plunges into the inside once again!
VROOM
FWOO
SUS
GUNMA AKAGI
Jesus blocks him!
Nice move!

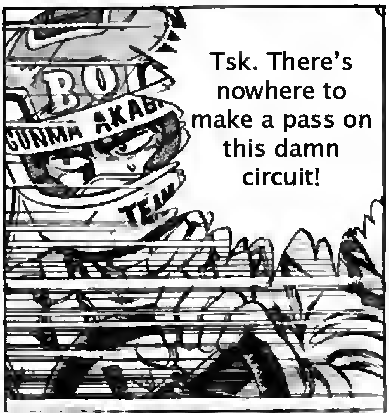

ZOOOOOM
ZSSHHH
Gunma Akagi is struggling to retake first!
Jesus' clever driving is keeping Gunma from retaking his position!

I'm not planning to stare at this guy's ass forever!
Shut up! I know very well what could happen!

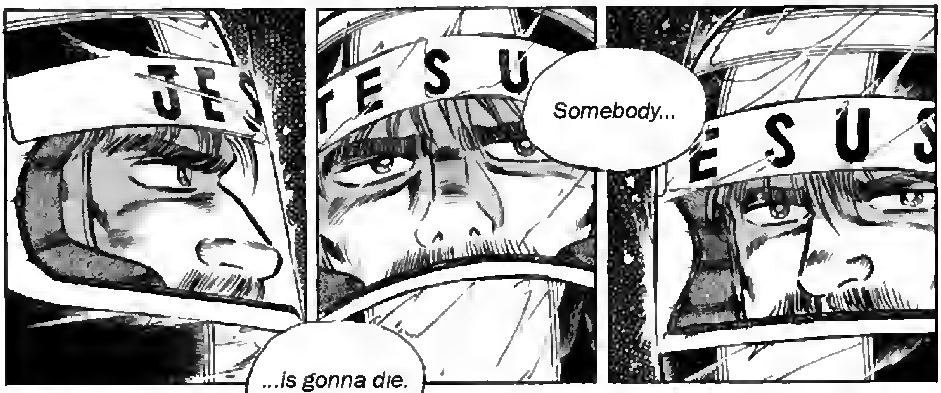
If you panic and spin out, you're done for!
Don't panic! Just wait for a good opportunity!
VRRR

He's really in the zone...
He's...

Nine more laps!

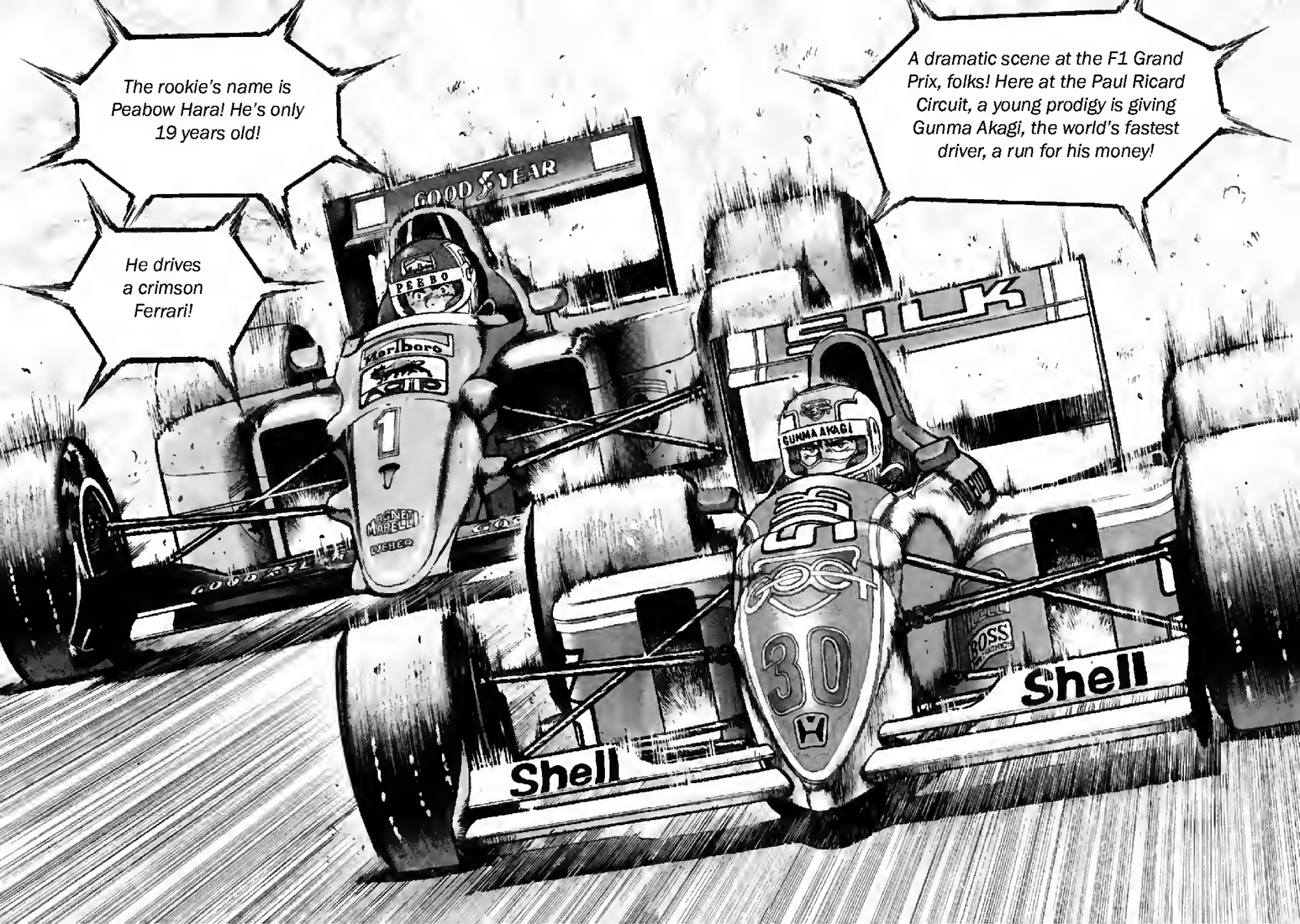

Tsk. There's nowhere to make a pass on this damn circuit!

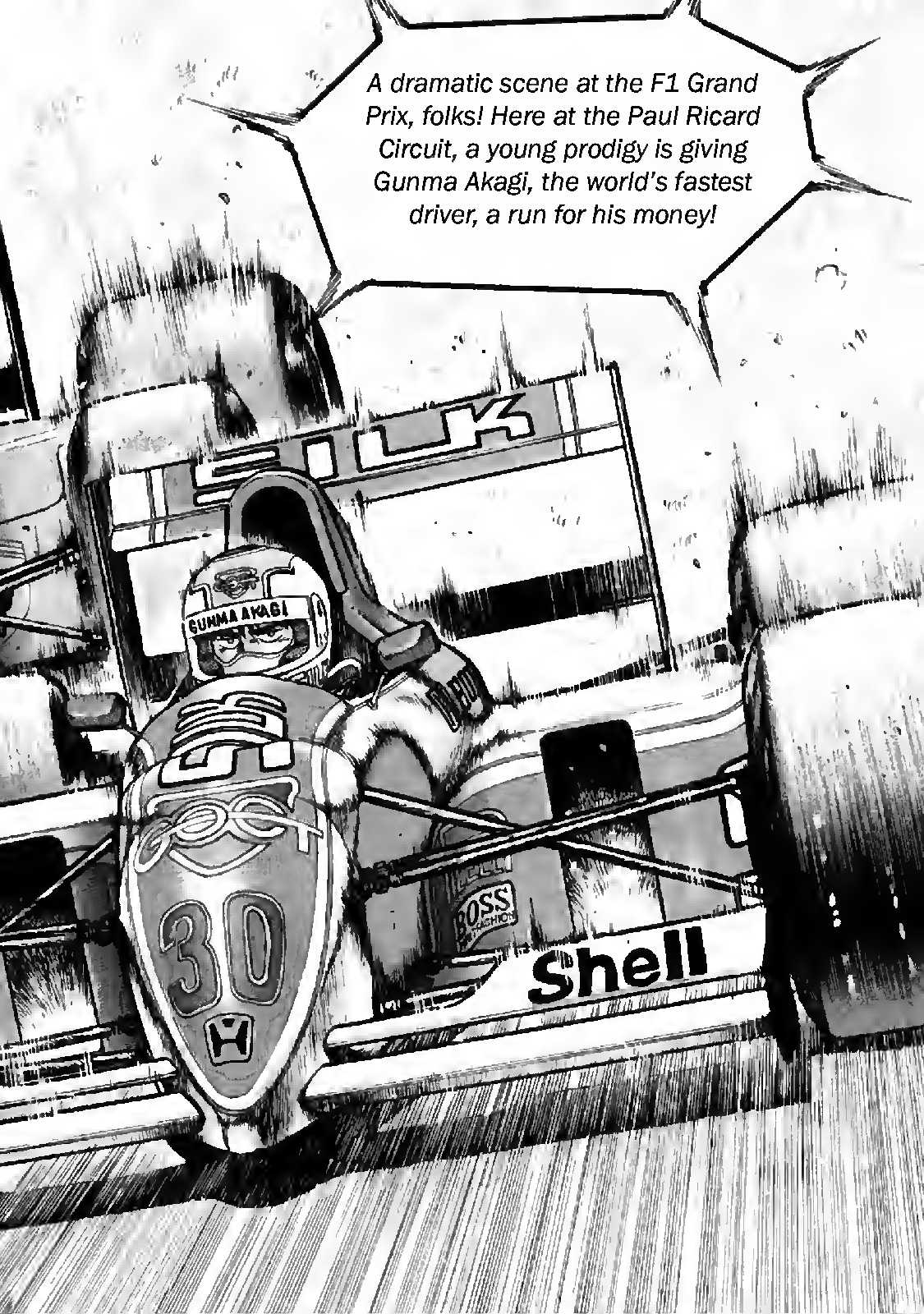
The championship is yours!
Keep at it, Jesus!
Stay in first and go straight for the finish line!


Somebody...
...is gonna die.

Peabow, the sign-board!
Here!
JIOA
But who...!?

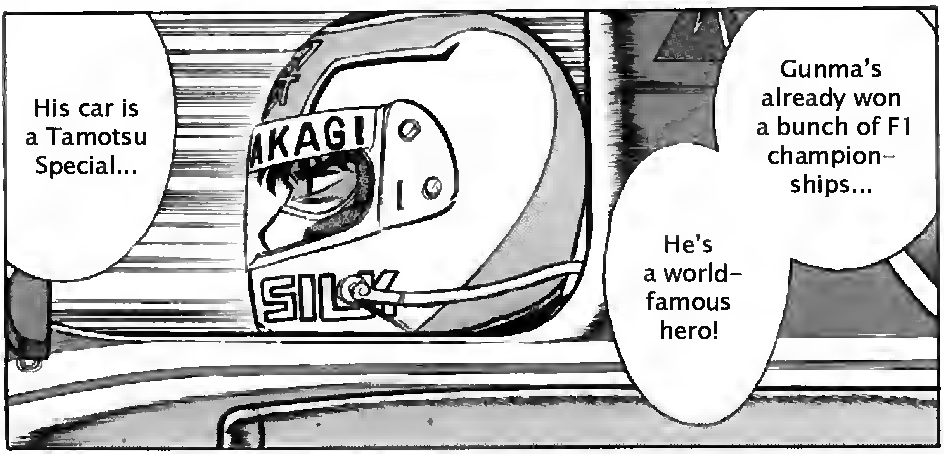
Don't worry, Mr. Orman. Gunma can do it! He'll win!
...he'll take the champi-onship from you!
If you keep letting him stay ahead...
Gun-ma...
...
Don't worry!
JI 04
ZOOOM
30
SILK
So badass!

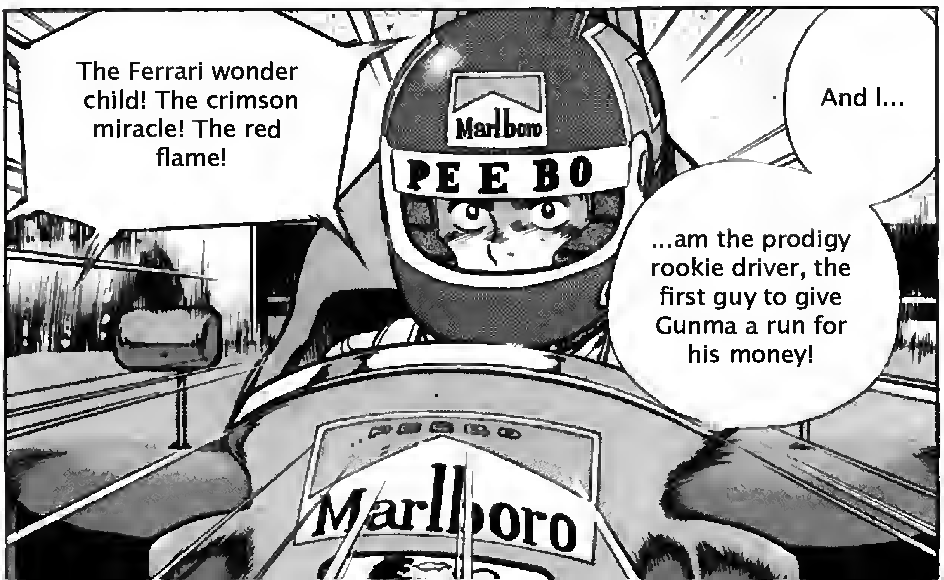

The rookie's name is Peabow Hara! He's only 19 years old!
He drives a crimson Ferrari!
A dramatic scene at the F1 Grand Prix, folks! Here at the Paul Ricard Circuit, a young prodigy is giving Gunma Akagi, the world's fastest driver, a run for his money!
GOODYEAR
PEEBO
Marlboro
1
MAGNETI MARELLI
WEBER
GUNMA AKAGI
30
HONDA
Shell
Shell
BOSS


A dramatic scene at the F1 Grand Prix, folks! Here at the Paul Ricard Circuit, a young prodigy is giving Gunma Akagi, the world's fastest driver, a run for his money!
GUNMA AKAGI
30
Shell

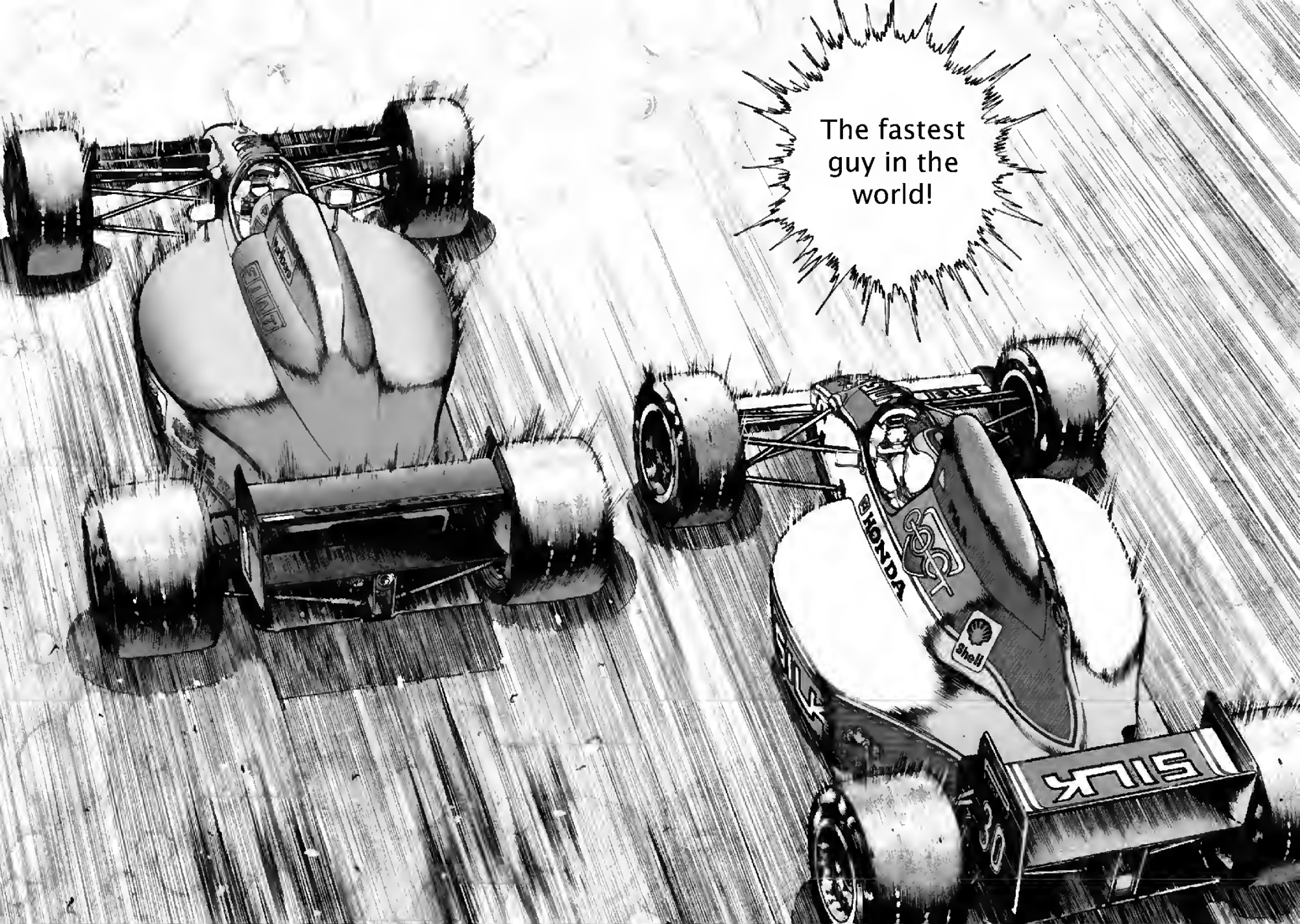
The rookie's name is Peabow Hara! He's only 19 years old!
He drives a crimson Ferrari!
GOODYEAR
PEABO
Marlboro
1
MAGNETI MARELLI
WEBER
Shell

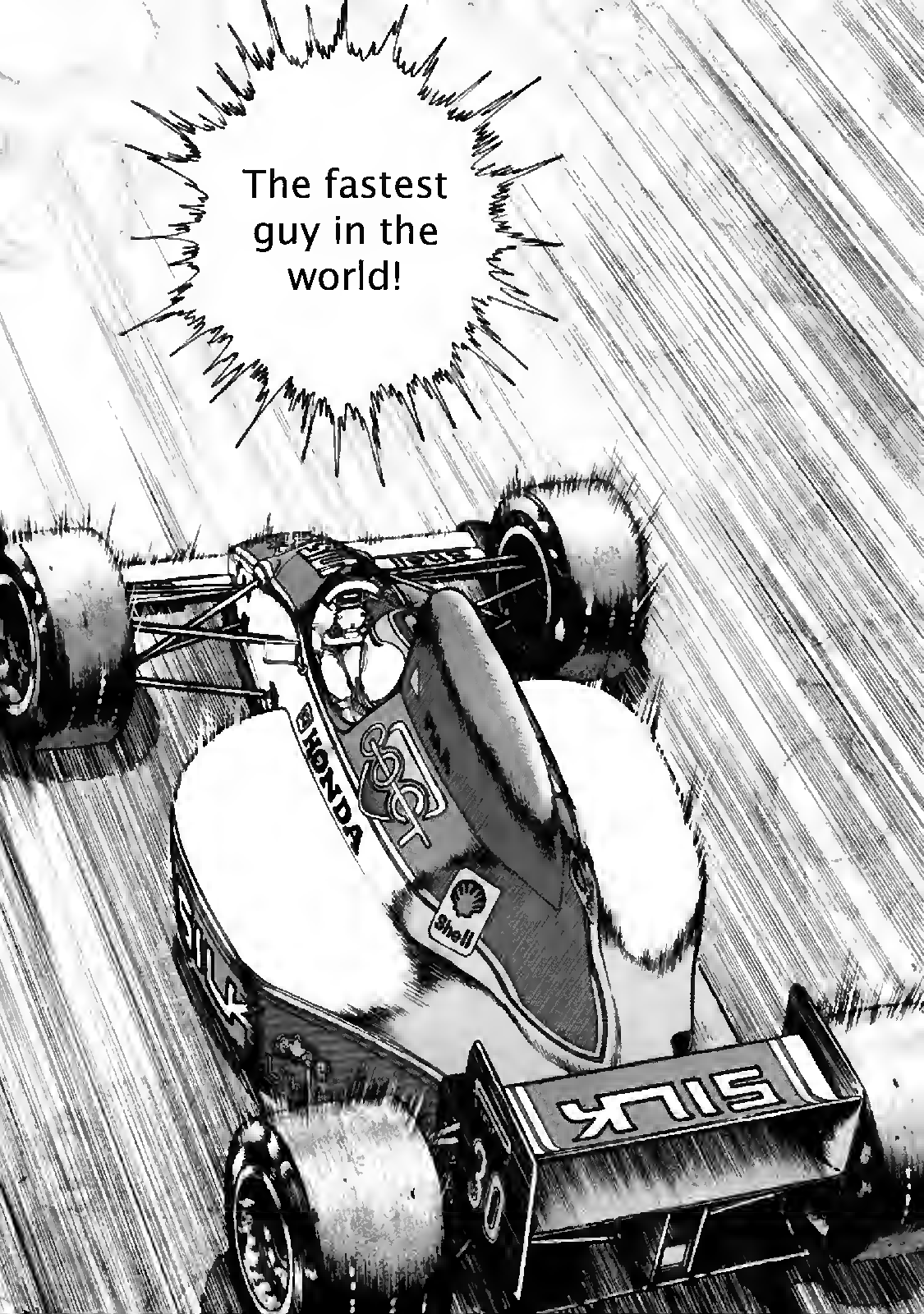
And maybe they'll have kids...
Junko is married to Gunma and she's in the pit...
She's my wife...
Sako is cheering for me from the stands!

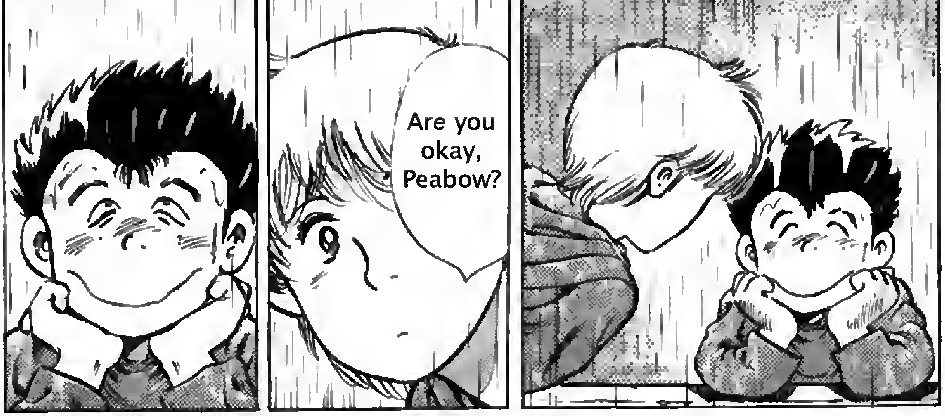

His car is a Tamotsu Special...
AKAGI
SILK
He's a world-famous hero!
Gunma's already won a bunch of F1 champion-ships...


The Ferrari wonder child! The crimson miracle! The red flame!
Marlboro
PE E BO
...am the prodigy rookie driver, the first guy to give Gunma a run for his money!
And I...
Marlboro

PIAA
And I'm gonna pass the world's hero!
Marlboro
PEEBO
AKAGI
Woooo
While my heart is full of respect for him, I'm gonna pass him!
Marlbor
PEE
AKAGI
SILK

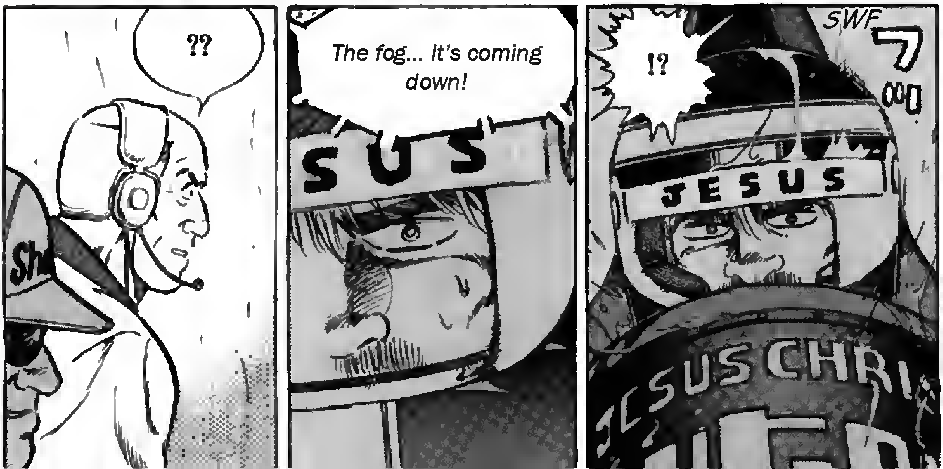

The fastest guy in the world!
HONDA
Shell
30


The fastest guy in the world!
HONDA
Shell
30


Are you okay, Peabow?

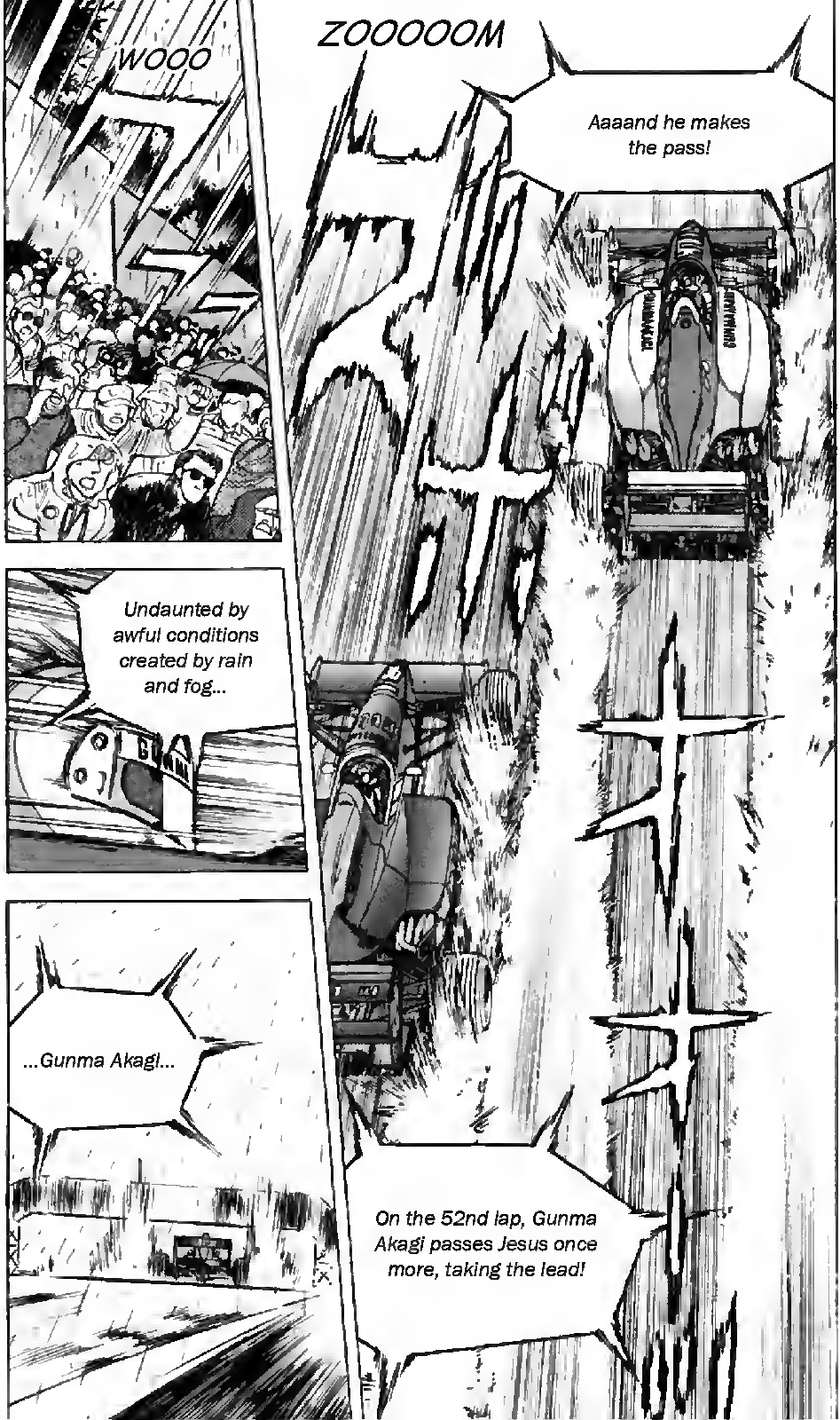
Will Jesus' victory be decided here in Nogaro!?
Three laps left, folks! There's been no change in positions!

Just one second behind Jesus, Gunma enters the home straight once again!
Gunma doesn't think so! He's frantically looking for a good spot to make the pass, but it's proving to be difficult!
JESUS


??
The fog... It's coming down!
SUS
SWF
!?
JESUS

Let's go!
GUNMA AK
What's going on, Jesus!?
What the hell is this!?
The fog...
KRRR
What is this nonsense!?
The black fog...
BUMP
Whoa! Gunma makes one last attempt to overtake Jesus on the straight!
38
40

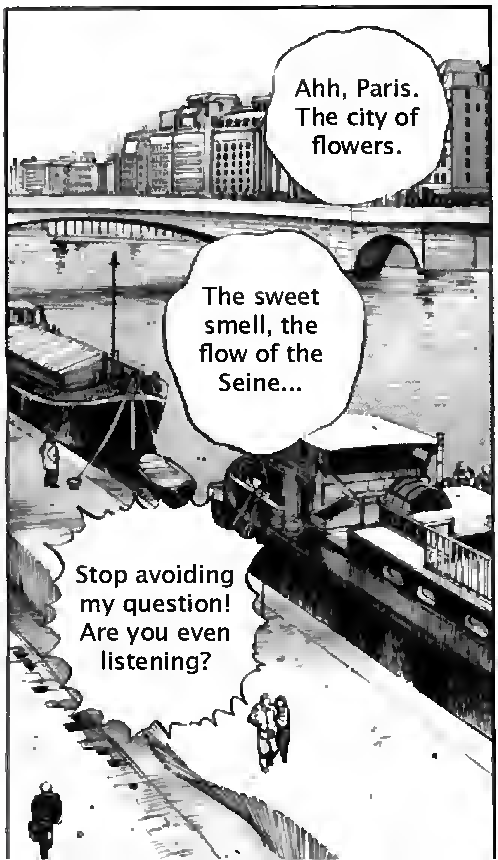
SPISHH
Gunma!
Yeah! Make the pass! It's your last chance!
JES
Will he pass!?
Will he pass!?
Will he pass!?
GUNMA


WOOO
ZOOOOOM
Aaaand he makes the pass!
Undaunted by awful conditions created by rain and fog...
...Gunma Akagi...
On the 52nd lap, Gunma Akagi passes Jesus once more, taking the lead!

WOOOHOOO
...wins pole to finish in the 11th race of the series!
With this, he's up to 57 points! Jesus finishes second, bringing him up to 65!
With an 8 point difference, it looks like this year's victory will be decided at Dijon!
...

Chapter 9: Approaching Darkness

Come on, Gunma. Let's do it.


Ahh, Paris. The city of flowers.
The sweet smell, the flow of the Seine...
Stop avoiding my question! Are you even listening?

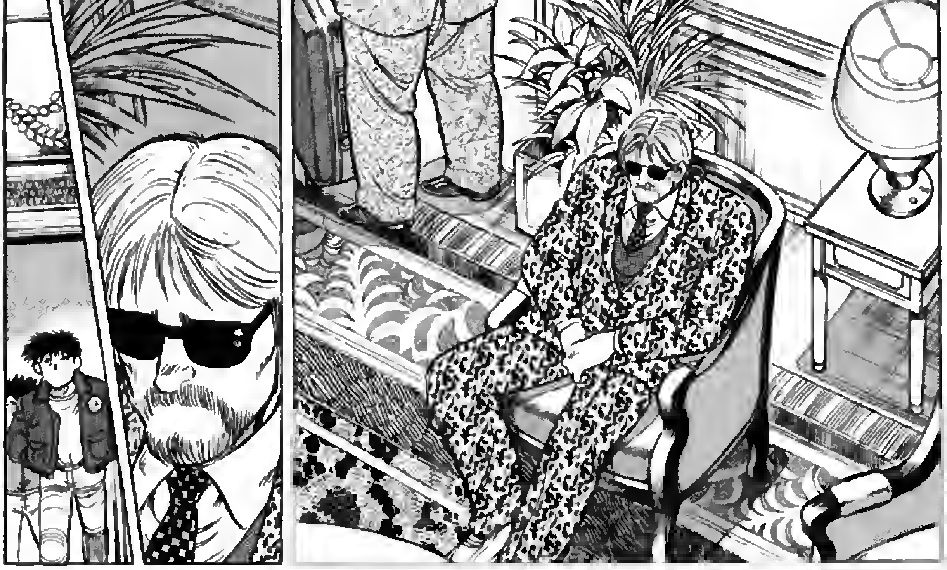
You have two weeks before Dijon.
So come on! Come with me!

No, I want you to be my coach!
...and you're asking me to hold your signboard?
It's gonna be at Doning-ton...
Yep! I race five days from now.
You entered Formula Ford.
Yeah, yeah. I'm listening.
It's Oc-tober! It ain't no city of flowers any-more!
But here I am, in the city of flow-ers, and I'm in the mood for love...
I don't mind giving you some special training.
Pff. A star. Listen to you.
It's my debut race! I won't become a star if I get off to a clumsy start!
But you gotta promise me you'll at least finish third!
...I'll just forget about love and train you.
Well, if you're gonna be so pushy about it...
Oh, geez...
You kidding me!? I'm going for first! It's my first race, and I'm aiming for nothing less!

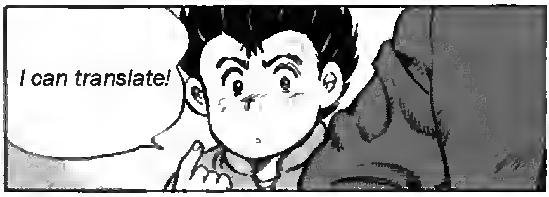
It'll be brought into Dijon a week before the race. I want make sure everything is set up perfectly.
I've been wanting to have a look at Tamotsu's progress...
...so I gotta go back to England for a bit, Orman.
I'll be back before you know it.
Once I get the car brought in, I need to go back for a while too.
All right, all right.
In any case, the championship depends on this race. Don't lose your focus.

Woohoo! Love is in the air!
Gunma, you have a visitor.
What... who?

...with a mustache.
That's right. Long hair, a brunette...



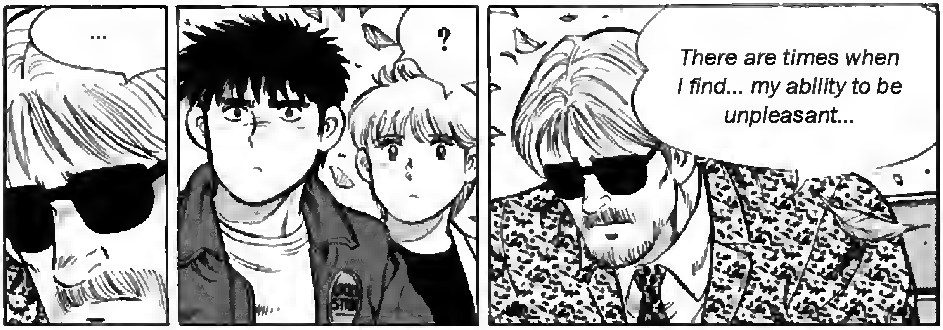
I want to talk to you about something. Can anyone translate?

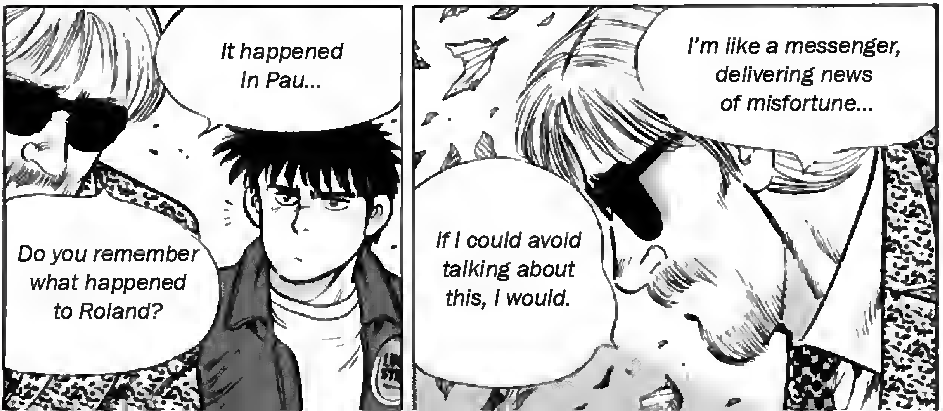

I can translate!

What's up? You need something?

HMPH

Sorry, I need someone else.
It's grown-up talk.


...
?
There are times when I find... my ability to be unpleasant...

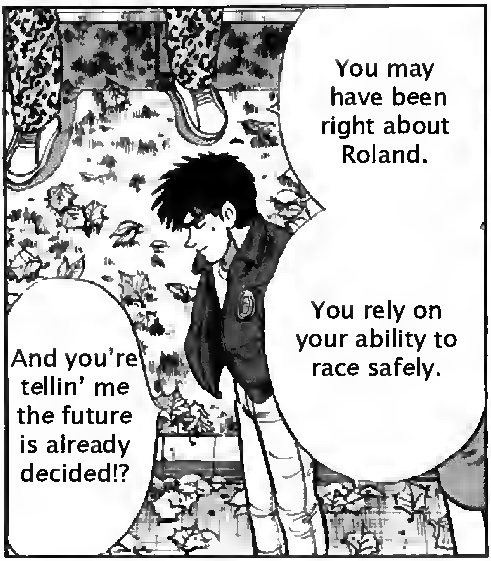

It happened In Pau...
Do you remember what happened to Roland?
I'm like a messenger, delivering news of misfortune...
If I could avoid talking about this, I would.

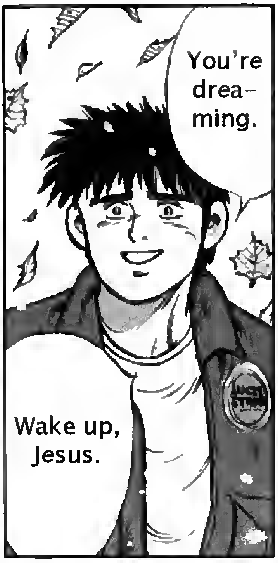
You're trying to convince me to drop out of the final tomorrow!
Tryin' to tell me that my life is in danger if I race...!
Piss off, Jesus! You cheat!
19
...
Just what the hell are you trying to tell me!?
Jesus...

!!
The future...
...is already decided, for the most part.
But it's not impossible to change.
If you act cautiously, it's possible to avoid misfortune before it occurs.
You will be met with misfortune...
...within a week.
What!? What kind of misfor-tune!?
...

I'm sorry, but I just don't know.
All I know is what I told you.
Tell me, Jesus! What's gonna happen!?
Tsk.
...
Gunma!
Let's go, Junko. This is ri-diculous!
A palm reader would give me some-thing better than that!
You ain't no freakin' fortune teller!
You tryin' to tell me I'm gonna die?
...
I didn't come here because I enjoy saying these things.
Don't forget about Roland!

It may be someone dear to you, someone you love.
The black fog that surrounds you... It...
It's possible!
But it could be someone else, too.


You may have been right about Roland.
You rely on your ability to race safely.
And you're tellin' me the future is already decided!?

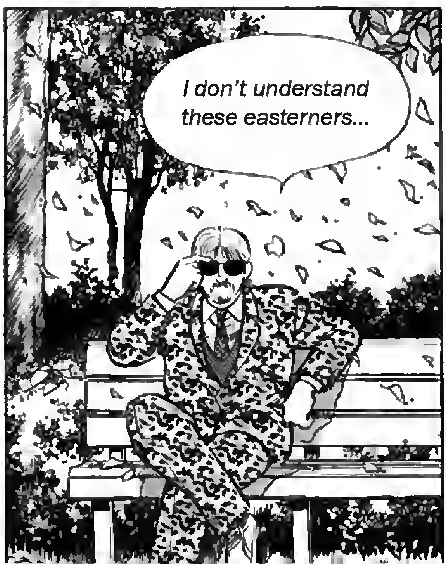

You're drea-ming.
Wake up, Jesus.

It's all a dream!
You gotta wake up, dude.

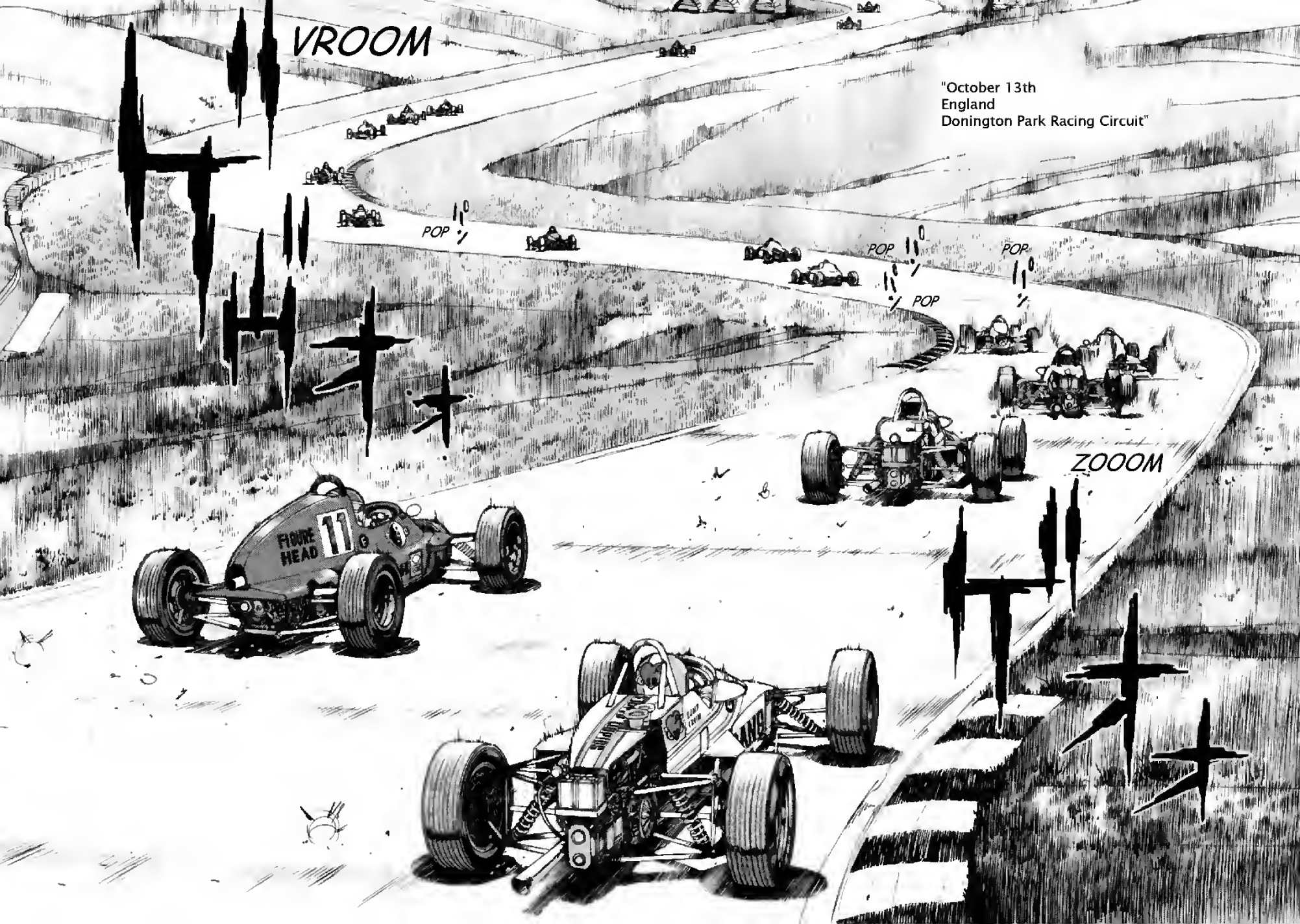
This is all real, Gunma!
No! It's the truth!

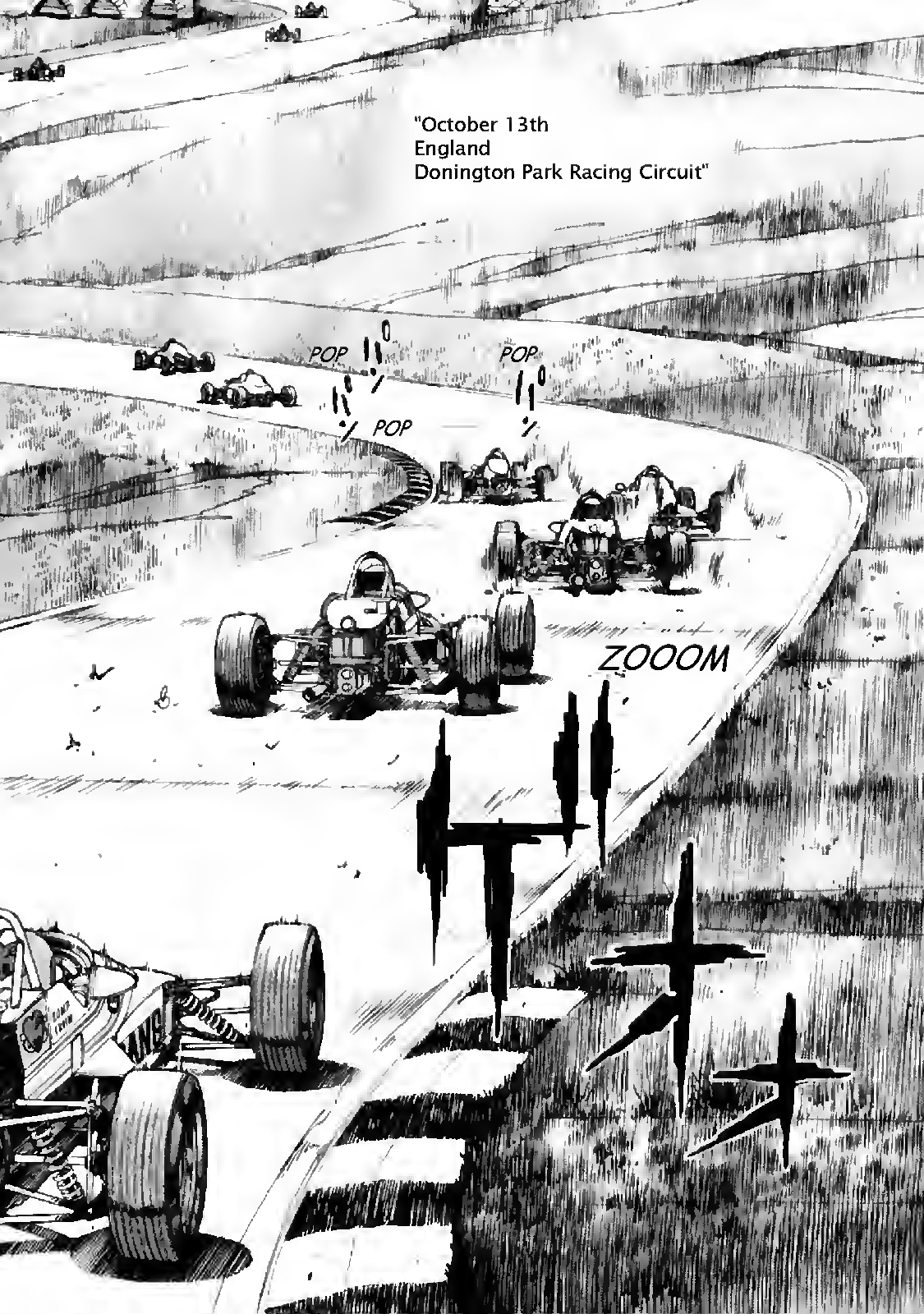
To eat good food? To enjoy ourselves?
Why...
Why are we on this earth, Jesus?

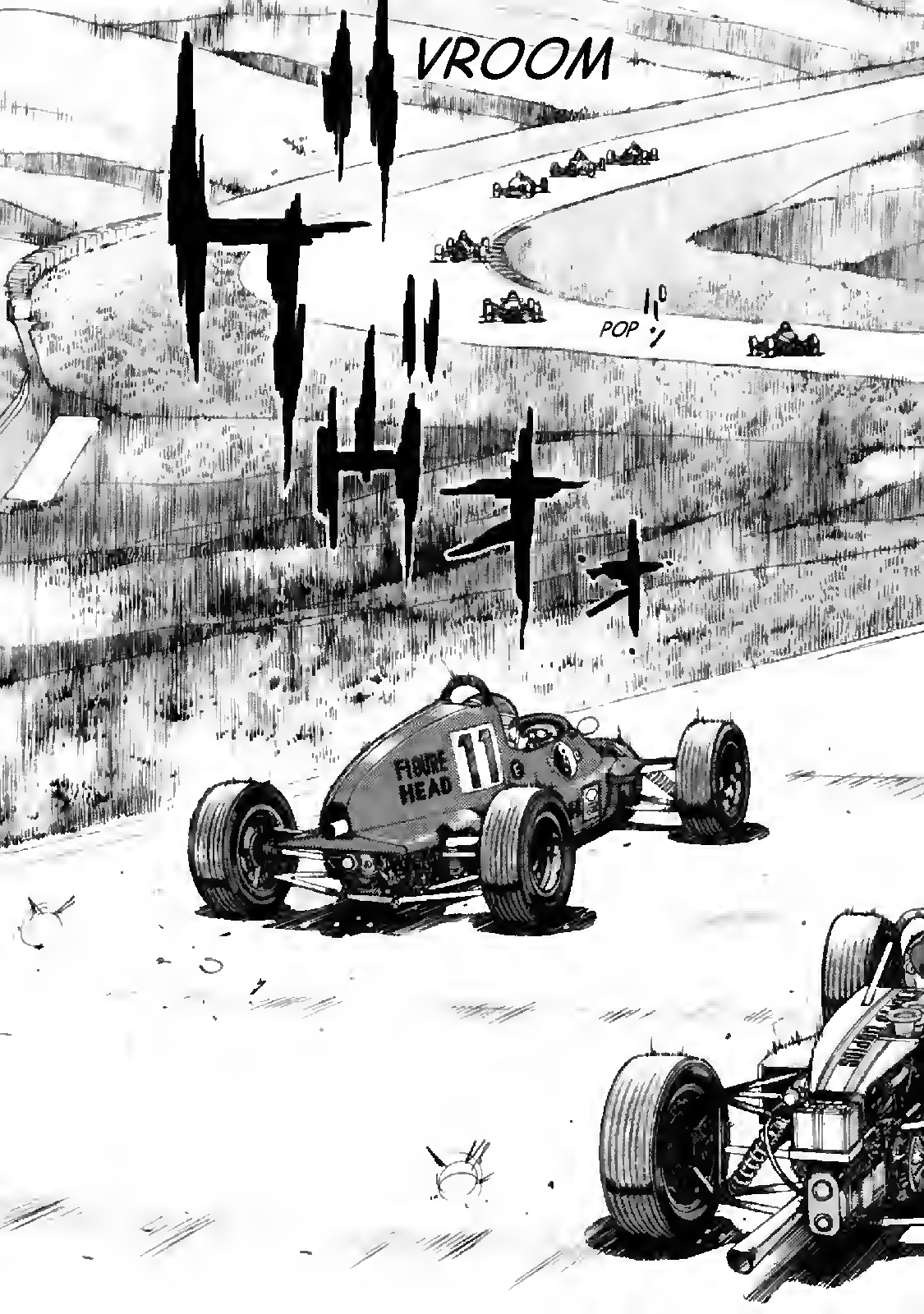
...


I don't understand these easterners...

...burn up in flames?
Why does life...

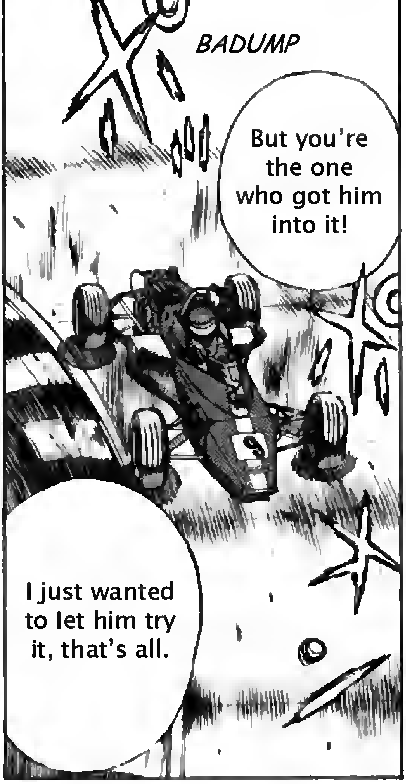

VROOM
"October 13th
England
Donington Park Racing Circuit"
POP
POP
POP
POP
ZOOOM
FIGURE HEAD
11

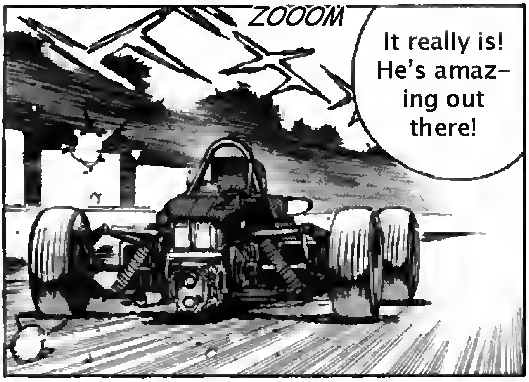

"October 13th
England
Donington Park Racing Circuit"
POP
POP
POP
ZOOOM


VROOM
POP
FIGURE HEAD
11

Come on, come on! Do this right, Peabow!
VEEER
Come on, come on! You're almost in third!
VROOOM
It's ama-zing...
...to see the results of your training!
ZOOOM
PEEBO
To be honest, I didn't think he would do this well either...
That ain't it. That's talent!
...if he was really cut out for racing.
I couldn't even tell...
PEEBO

But would you look at that! That's some fine racing!


BADUMP
But you're the one who got him into it!
I just wanted to let him try it, that's all.


ZOOOM
It really is! He's amaz-ing out there!

He's cut out for racing, all right! No doubt about it!

The guy ahead of me is just askin' to get passed!
I feel so powerful!
I feel like the world is mine!
VROOOOM

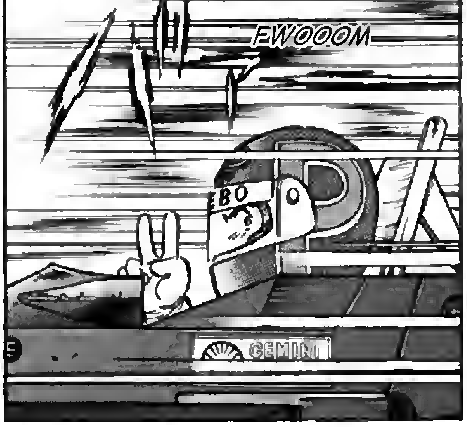
Woohoo! Awe-some!
PEEK

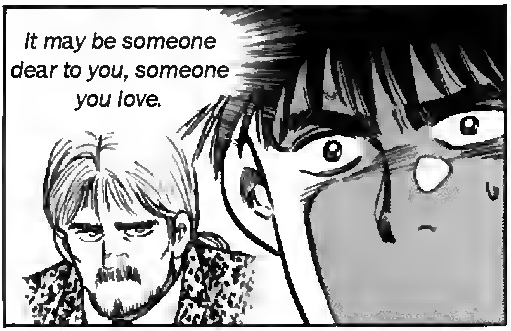
GEMINI OIL
GEMINI OIL
GEMINI OIL
VROOM
Nobody gets in front of me!
9
DUNLOP

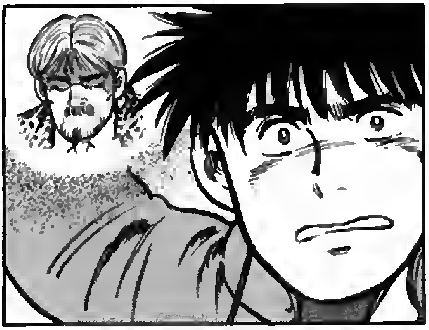
おおお
OOOH
Wow! Number 9 passes yet another racer, putting him in second place!

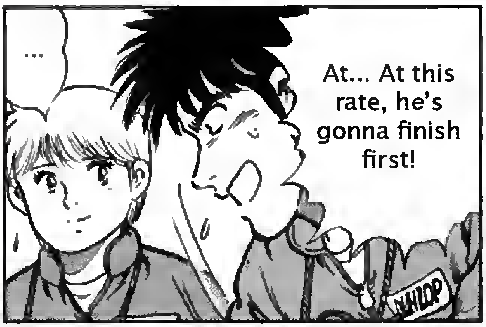
Aren't I freakin' awesome!?
PEEBO
Gunma, Junko. Are you watching?

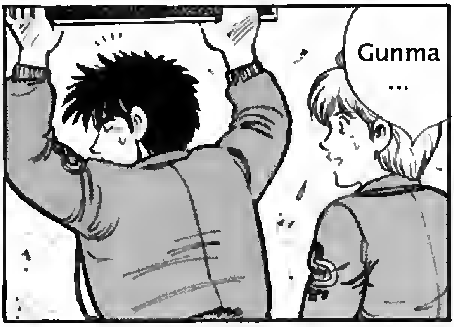
Tsk... A peace sign, huh?


FWOOOM
GEMINI


It may be someone dear to you, someone you love.




...
At... At this rate, he's gonna finish first!

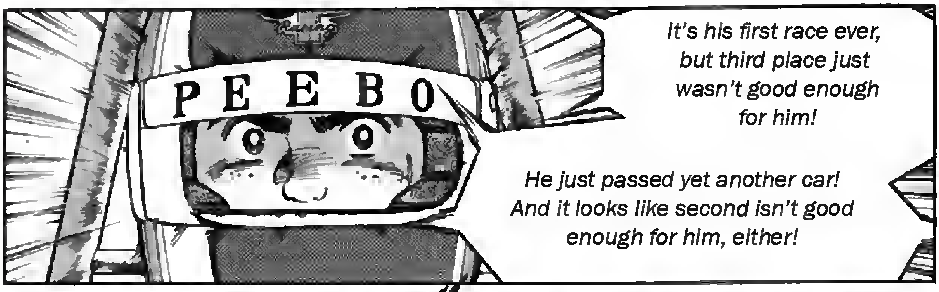

Gunma ...

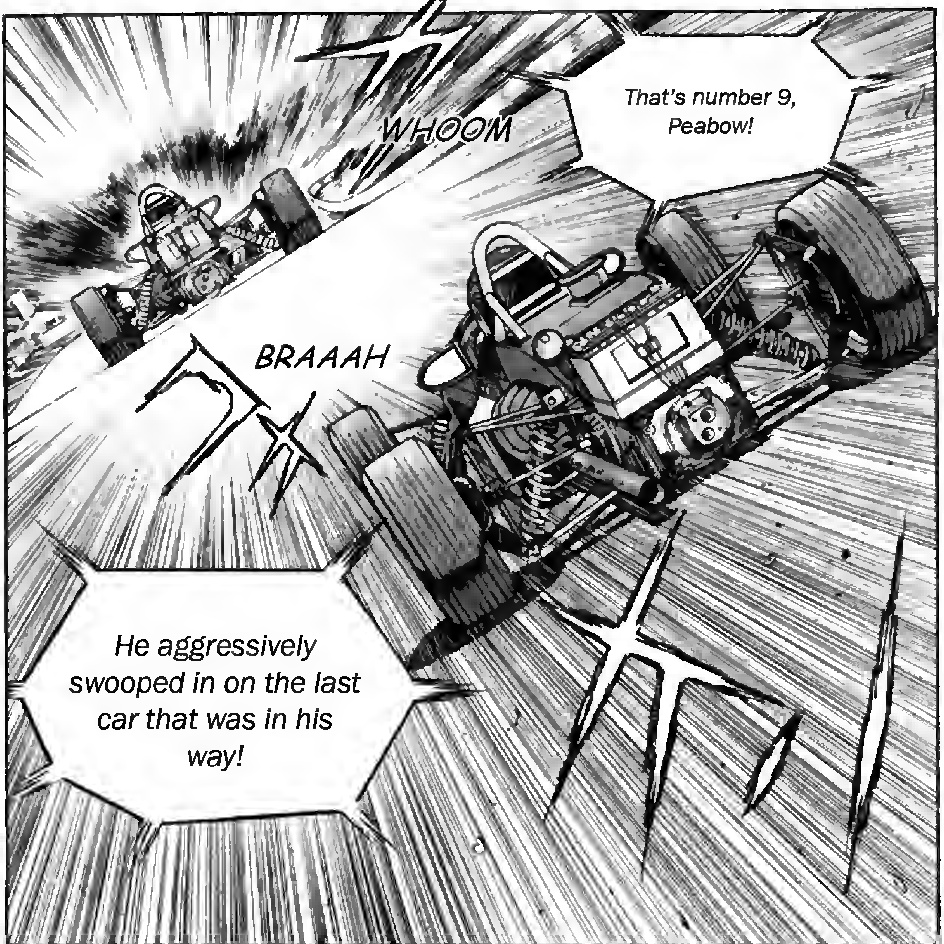
CLANK

He will...
...won't he?

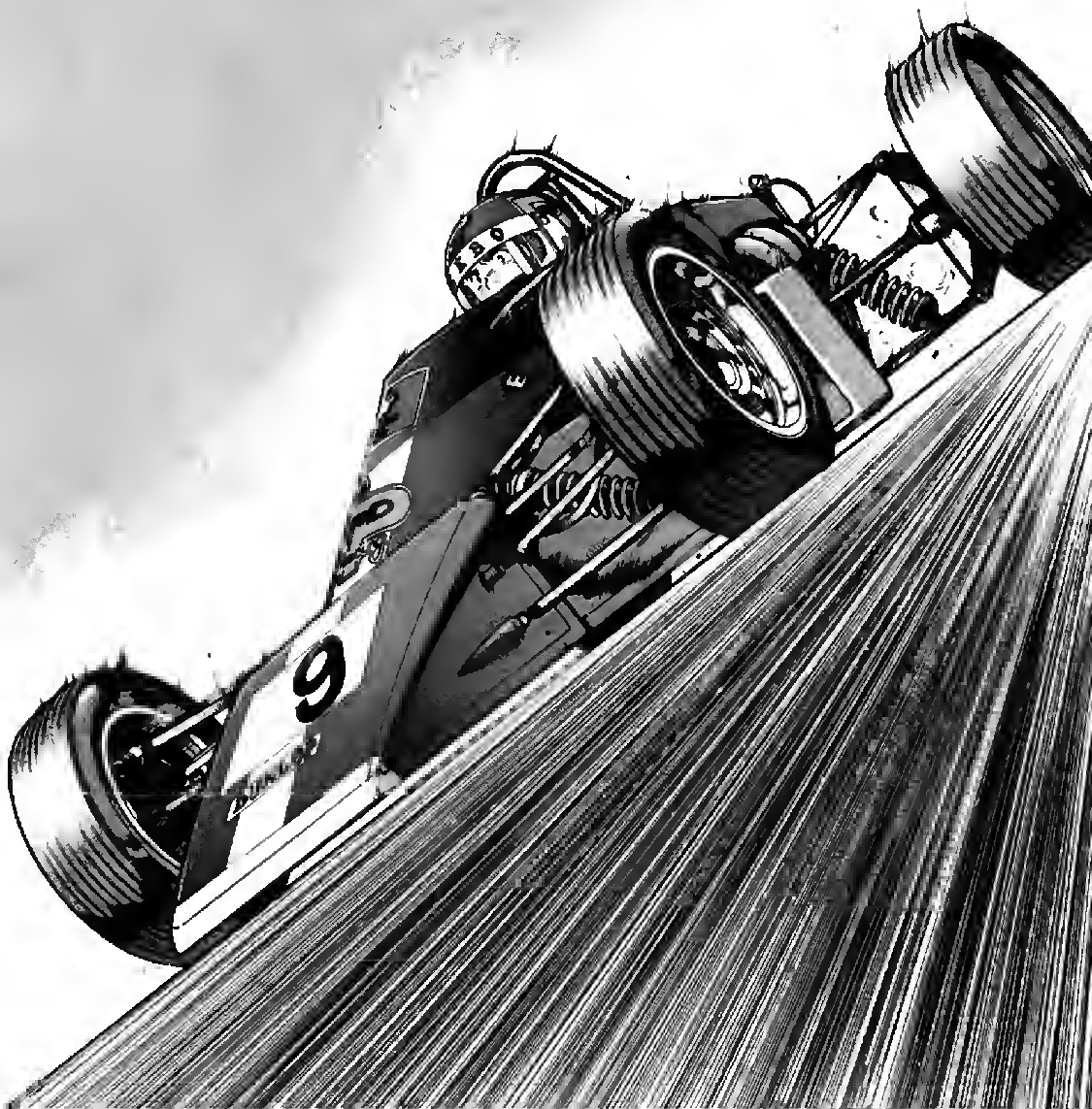
...
Huh, that's weird... It looks sturdy enough...
The string is broken...
Woops. Dammit, I dropped the stopwatch...
ZOOM
All right! I'm going for first, guys!
Shell Oils

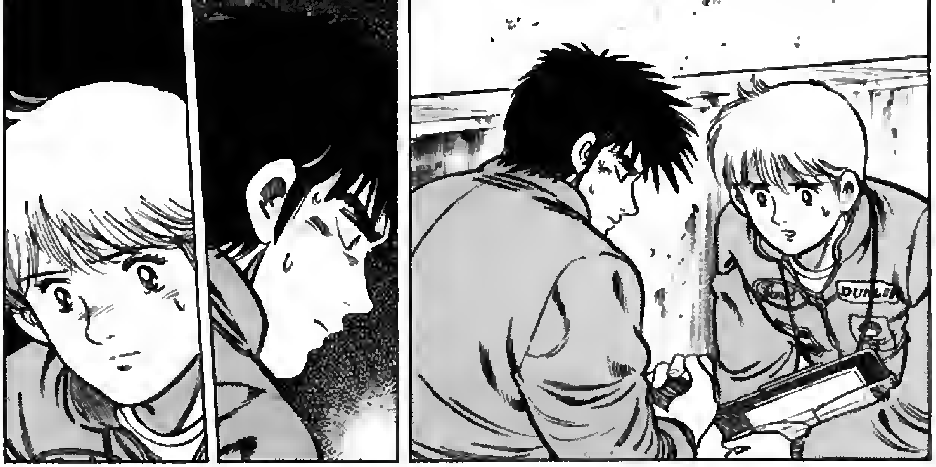
Chapter 10: Peabow, Peabow

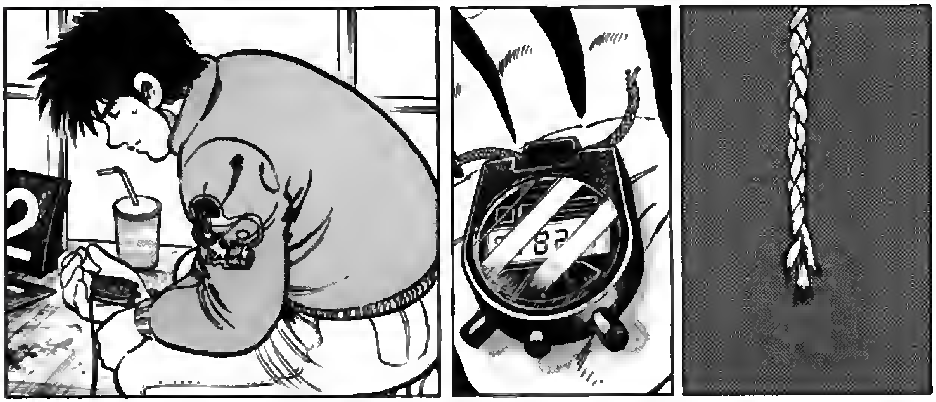

PEEBO
It's his first race ever, but third place just wasn't good enough for him!
He just passed yet another car! And it looks like second isn't good enough for him, either!



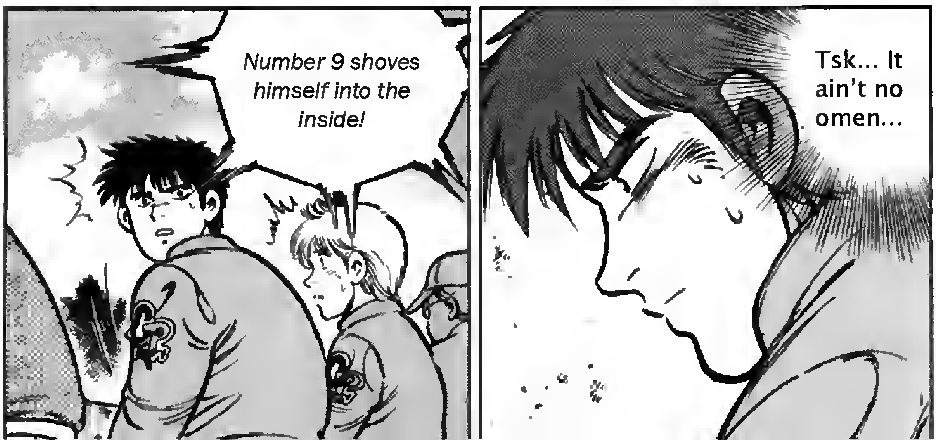
Chapter 10: Peabow, Peabow

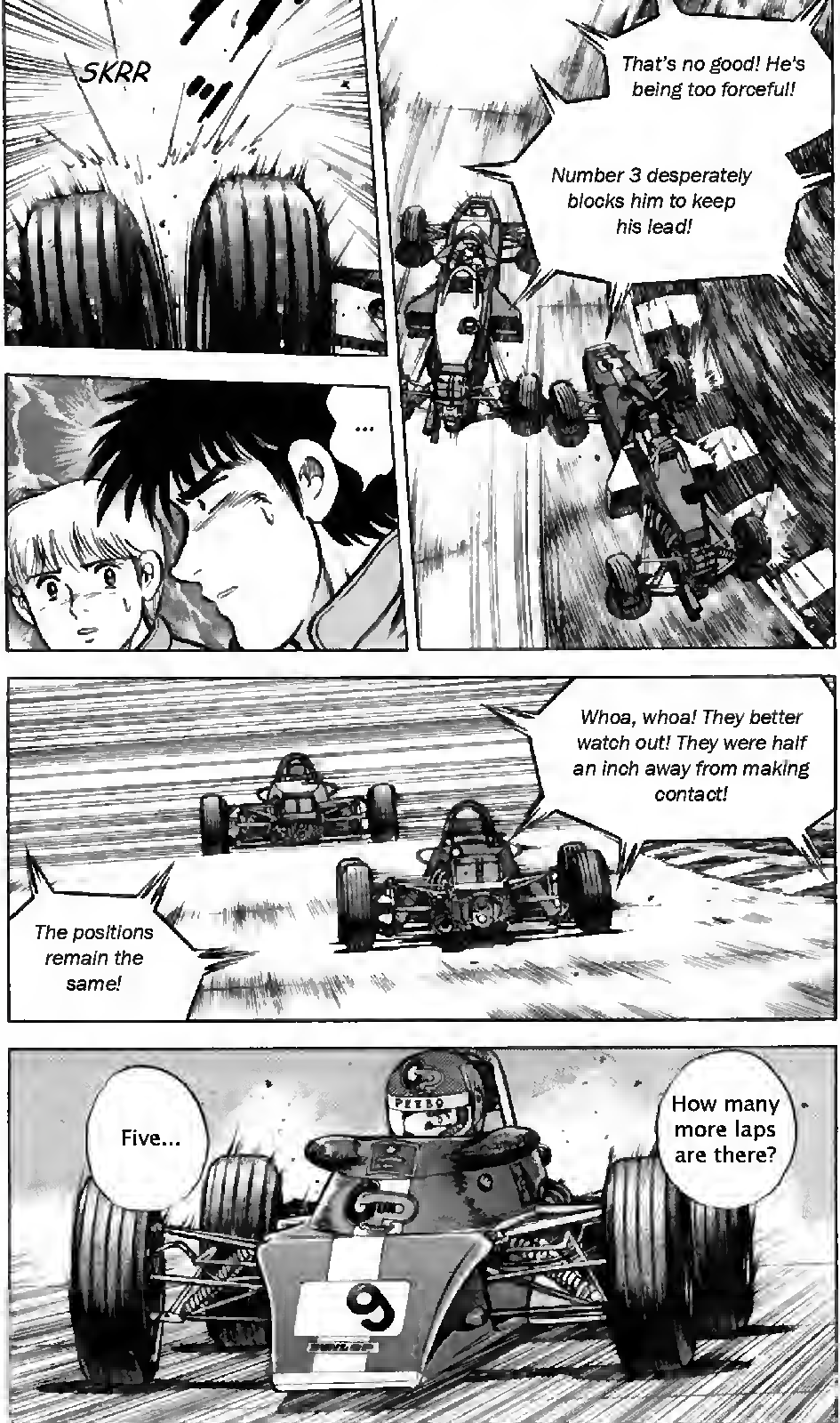


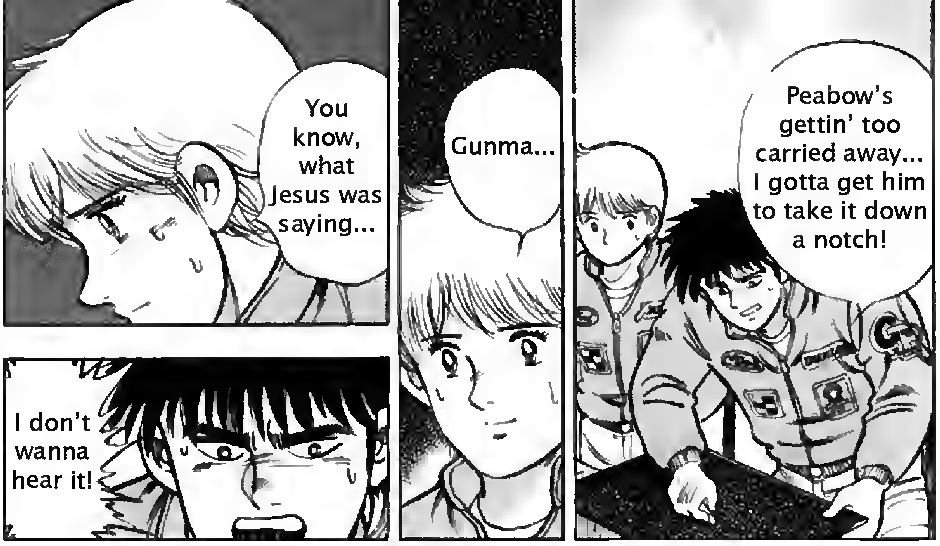


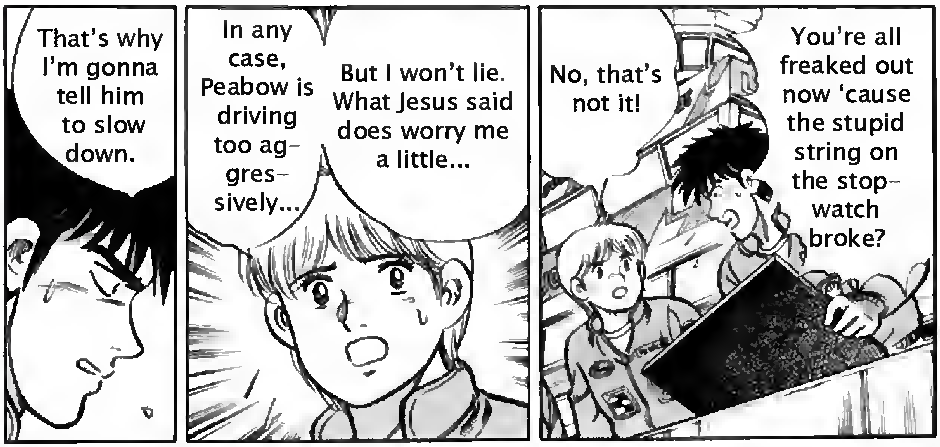


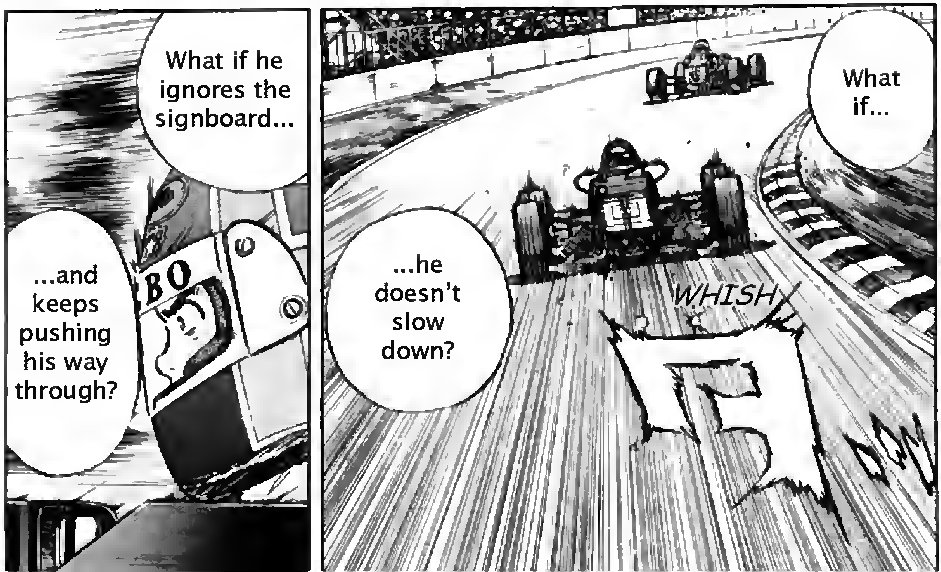
It could be someone else, too. It may be someone dear to you, someone you love
Very soon, you'll be met with misfortune...
Somebody's gonna die!?


Number 9 shoves himself into the inside!
Tsk... It ain't no omen...

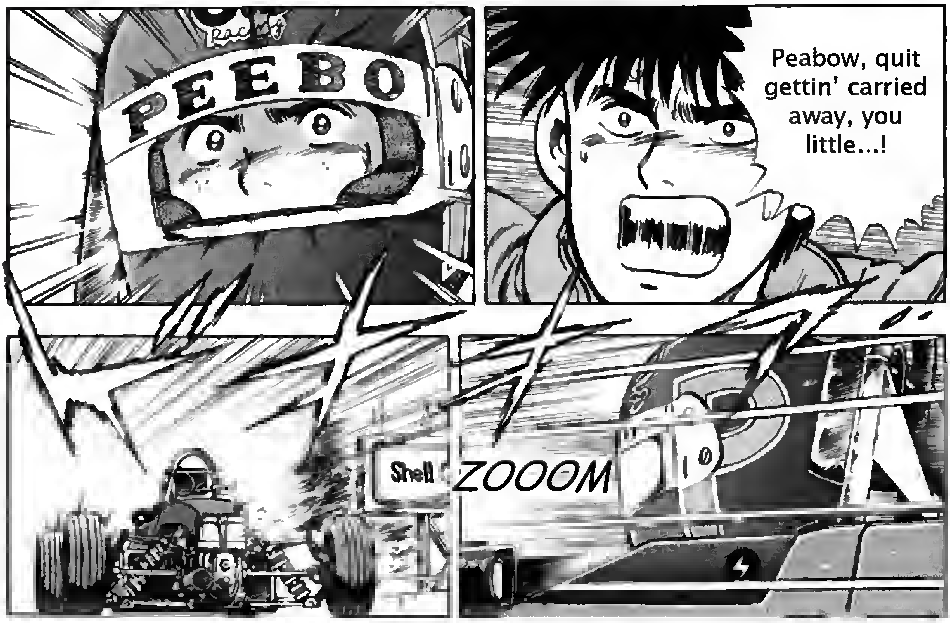

SKRR
That's no good! He's being too forceful!
Number 3 desperately blocks him to keep his lead!
...
Whoa, whoa! They better watch out! They were half an inch away from making contact!
The positions remain the same!
Five...
How many more laps are there?
PEREZ
9

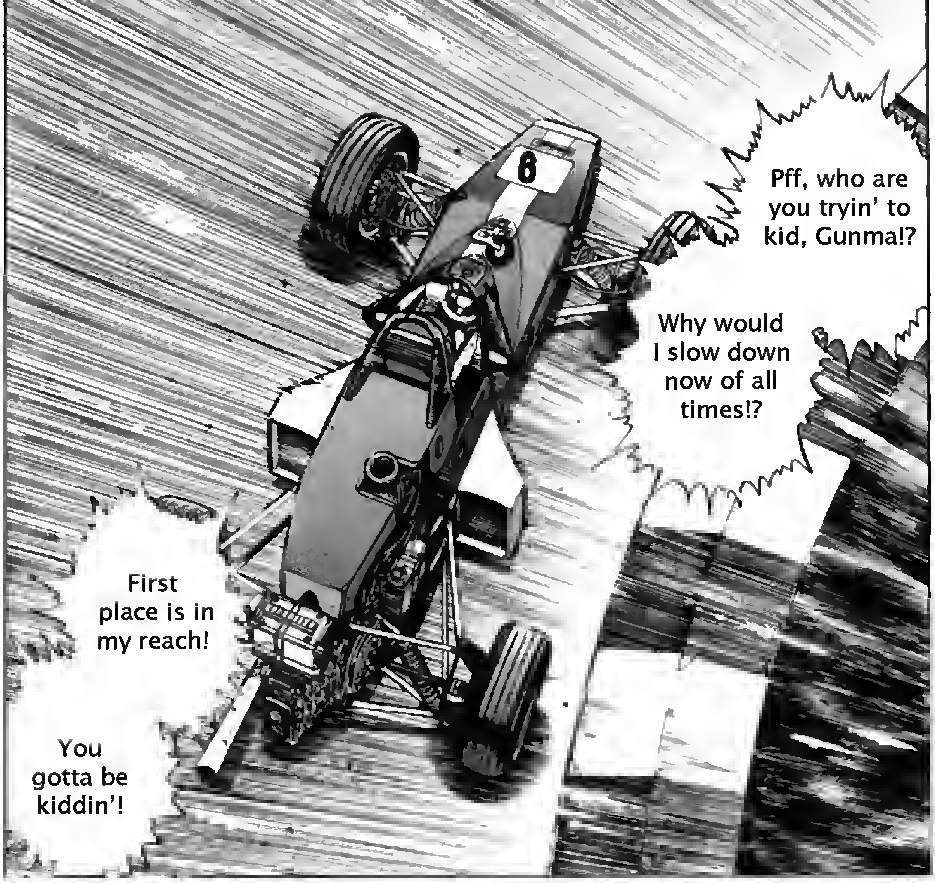

You know, what Jesus was saying...
I don't wanna hear it!
Gunma...
Peabow's gettin' too carried away... I gotta get him to take it down a notch!

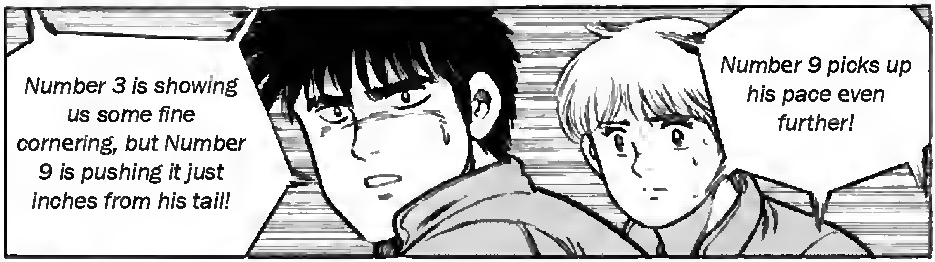

That's why I'm gonna tell him to slow down.
In any case, Peabow is driving too aggressively...
But I won't lie. What Jesus said does worry me a little...
No, that's not it!
You're all freaked out now 'cause the stupid string on the stopwatch broke?


What if he ignores the signboard...
...and keeps pushing his way through?
What if...
...he doesn't slow down?
WHISH

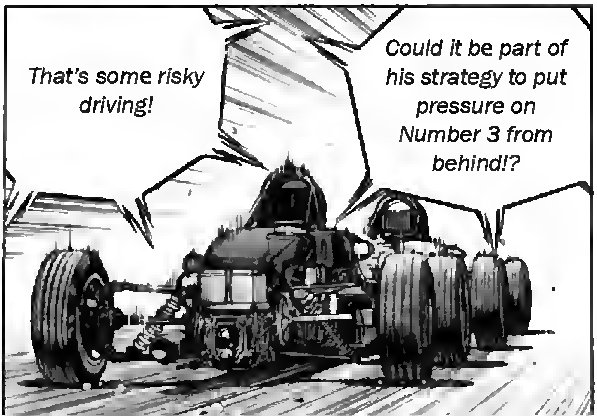
DOWN
I won't let it happen!


PEEBO
Peabow, quit gettin' carried away, you little...!
Shell
ZOOOM

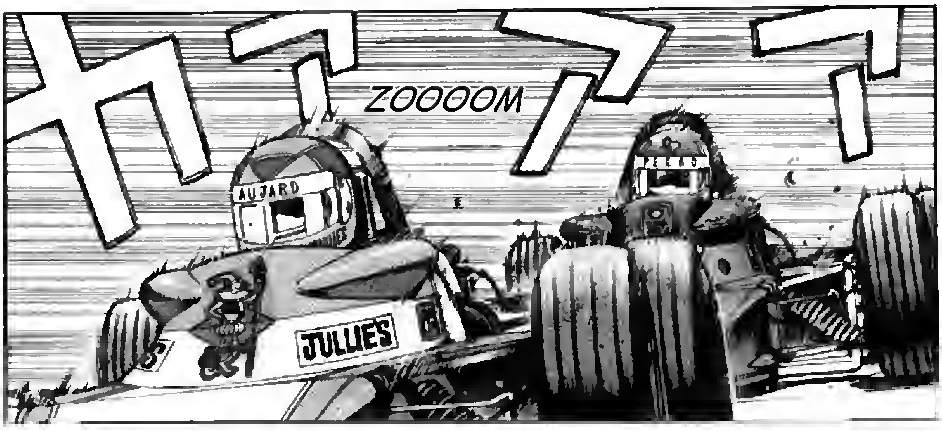

Pff, who are you tryin' to kid, Gunma!?
Why would I slow down now of all times!?
First place is in my reach!
You gotta be kiddin'!

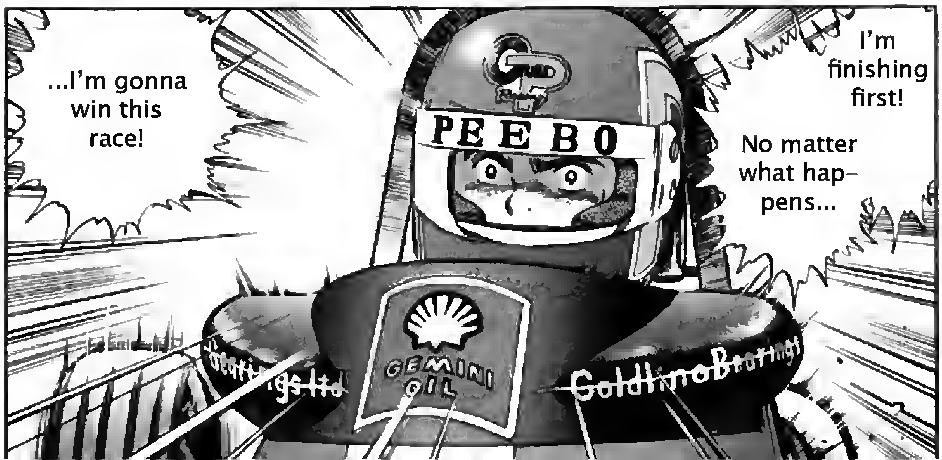

Number 3 is showing us some fine cornering, but Number 9 is pushing it just inches from his tail!
Number 9 picks up his pace even further!

If...
If some-thing...
...hap-pens to him...


That's some risky driving!
Could it be part of his strategy to put pressure on Number 3 from behind!?

SQUEEZE
What are we supposed to do!?

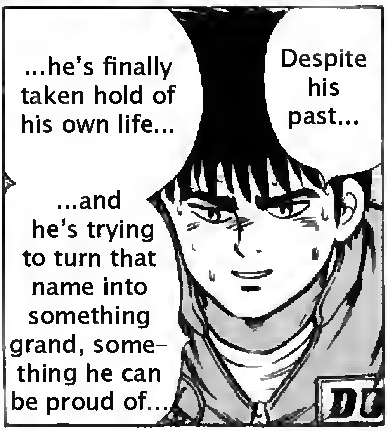

ZOOOOM
AUJARD
JULLIE'S

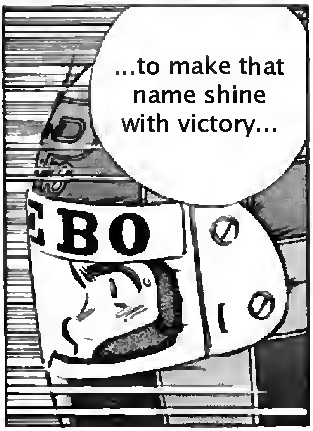

...I'm gonna win this race!
I'm finishing first!
No matter what happens...
PEEBO
GEMINI OIL

I'm not sure...
...about what Jesus was saying?
What do you think...
Junko...
...with his dead mom beside him.
He was on the roadside, crying...
He was three years old.
I don't know...
I...
Then what are we supposed to do...!?
Do we let Peabow keep driving? Or should we stop him?
DUNLOP
"Pee boh, pee boh..." No matter what they asked him, that was all he could say...
...the only thing that would come out of his mouth was the sound of the siren on the ambulance that carried his mom away...
When Sako and those bums from town found him...
Man... It almost brings tears to my eyes.
That's where his name came from.
So the guys decided to call him Peabow.
Ford
DUNLOP

Peabow...
And after all that's happened since, he's trying...
GEMINI OIL

And to stop him now...


...he's finally taken hold of his own life...
Despite his past...
...and he's trying to turn that name into something grand, something he can be proud of...


...to make that name shine with victory...

How could I do that to him!?
...because of some crap that Jesus was spewing...

Four laps remaining...

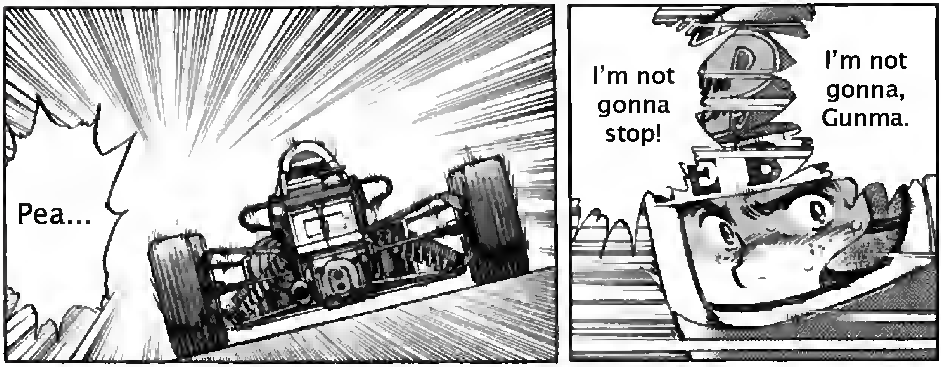
VROOOOOH
SWISH
JULLI'S
3
9

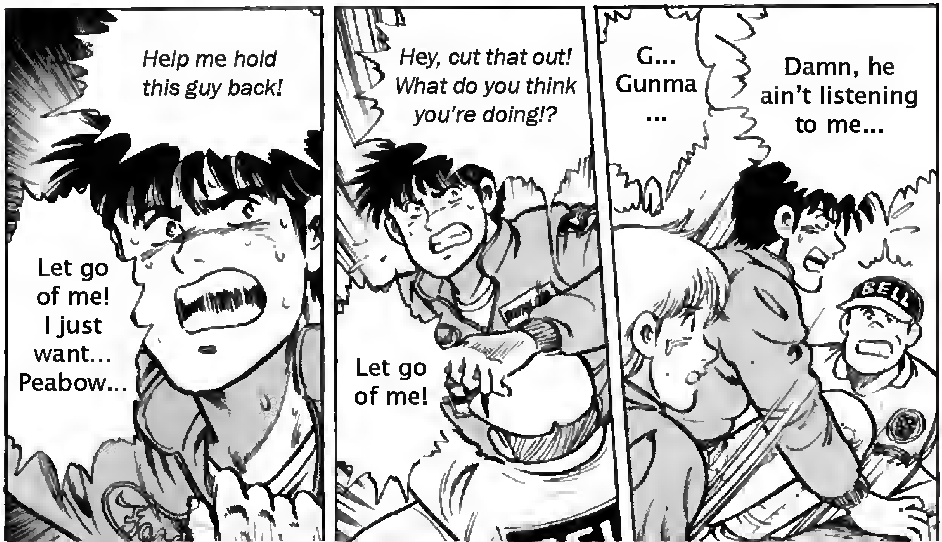
WHOOM
Three laps remaining...
EEBO
GEMINI OIL
PEEBO
Oof.
EEBO
Goldline Bearings
SKRRT
SKRRT
Whoa! Number 3 and Number 9 made contact!
GULP
FROOM

GAAASHHH
What the...!?
In second place, Number 9 just got his tire hit and spun off course!
SCREEK
Dam-mit!
He just barely makes it back on the track!
SCREEK
He's kept second place, but now there's a big gap between him and first!
ZOOOOOM
Pea-bow!

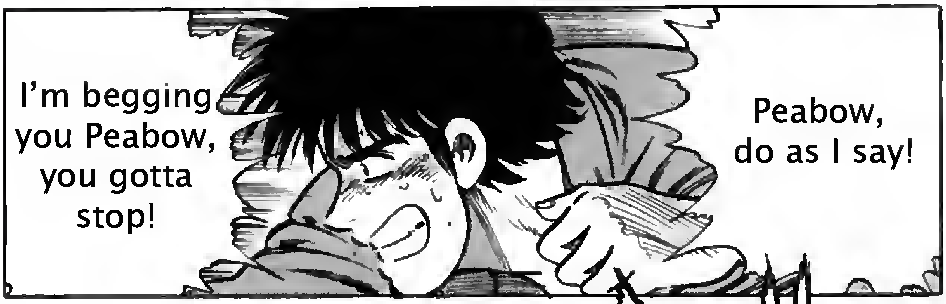
He's still trying to go for first!
Pea...
DUNLOP
No...! He's getting a little vibration! His alignment's messed up!
Gunma ...
It may be someone dear to you, someone you love.
KRR
Dammit!

PEEBO
!!
Peabow, stop! Peabow!
STOP!!!
Two laps remaining...

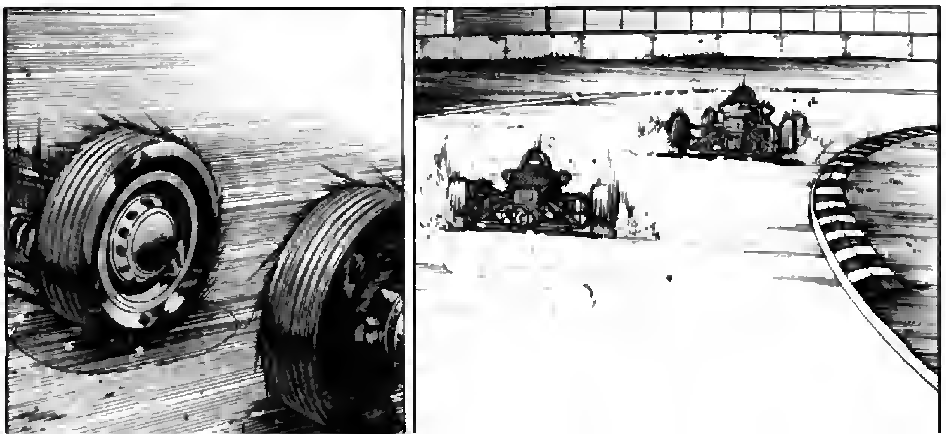

Pea...
I'm not gonna stop!
I'm not gonna, Gunma.

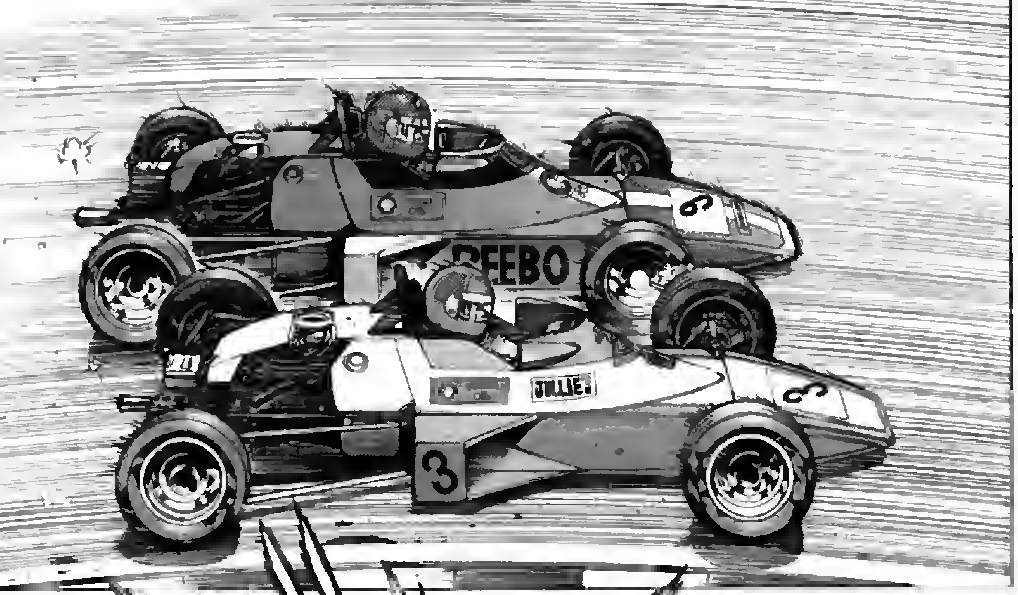

Help me hold this guy back!
Let go of me! I just want... Peabow...
Hey, cut that out! What do you think you're doing!?
Let go of me!
G... Gunma ...
Damn, he ain't listening to me...

Just a little more!
I'm closing in on him!
A little more, just a little more...
The final lap...

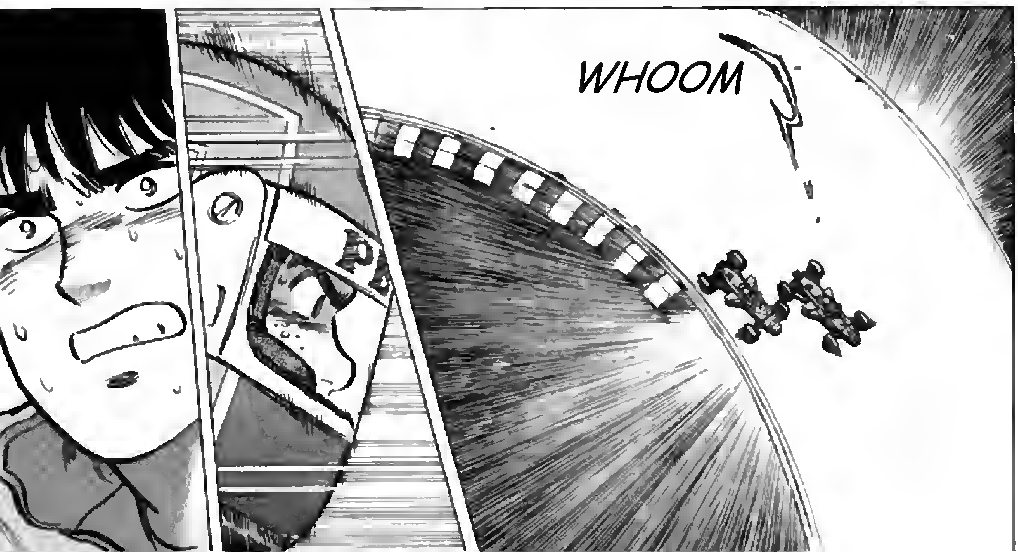

I'm begging you Peabow, you gotta stop!
Peabow, do as I say!

ZOOM



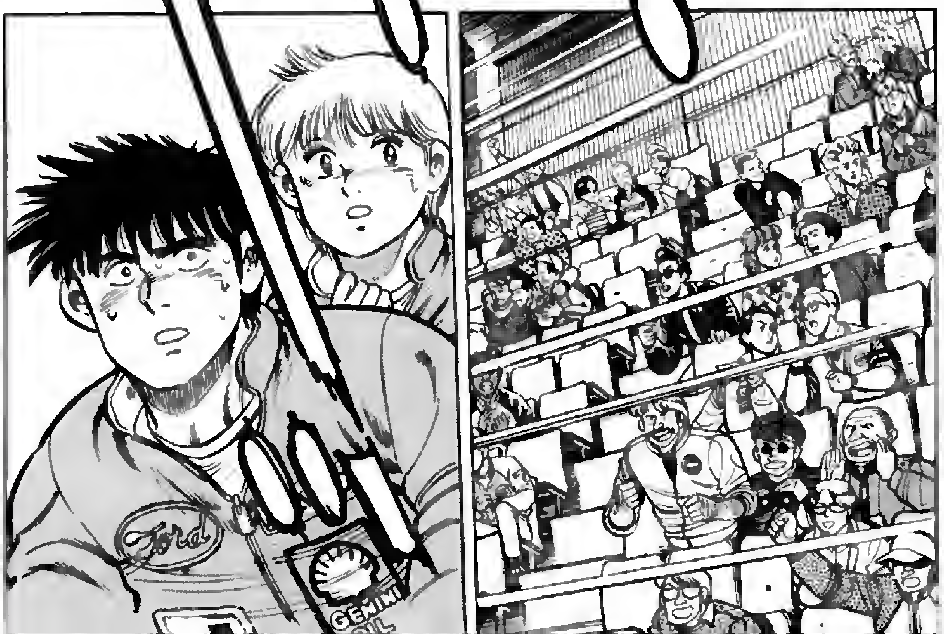

PEEBO
JULLIE'S
3

AUJARD
SKRRRT
JULLIE'S
PEEBO

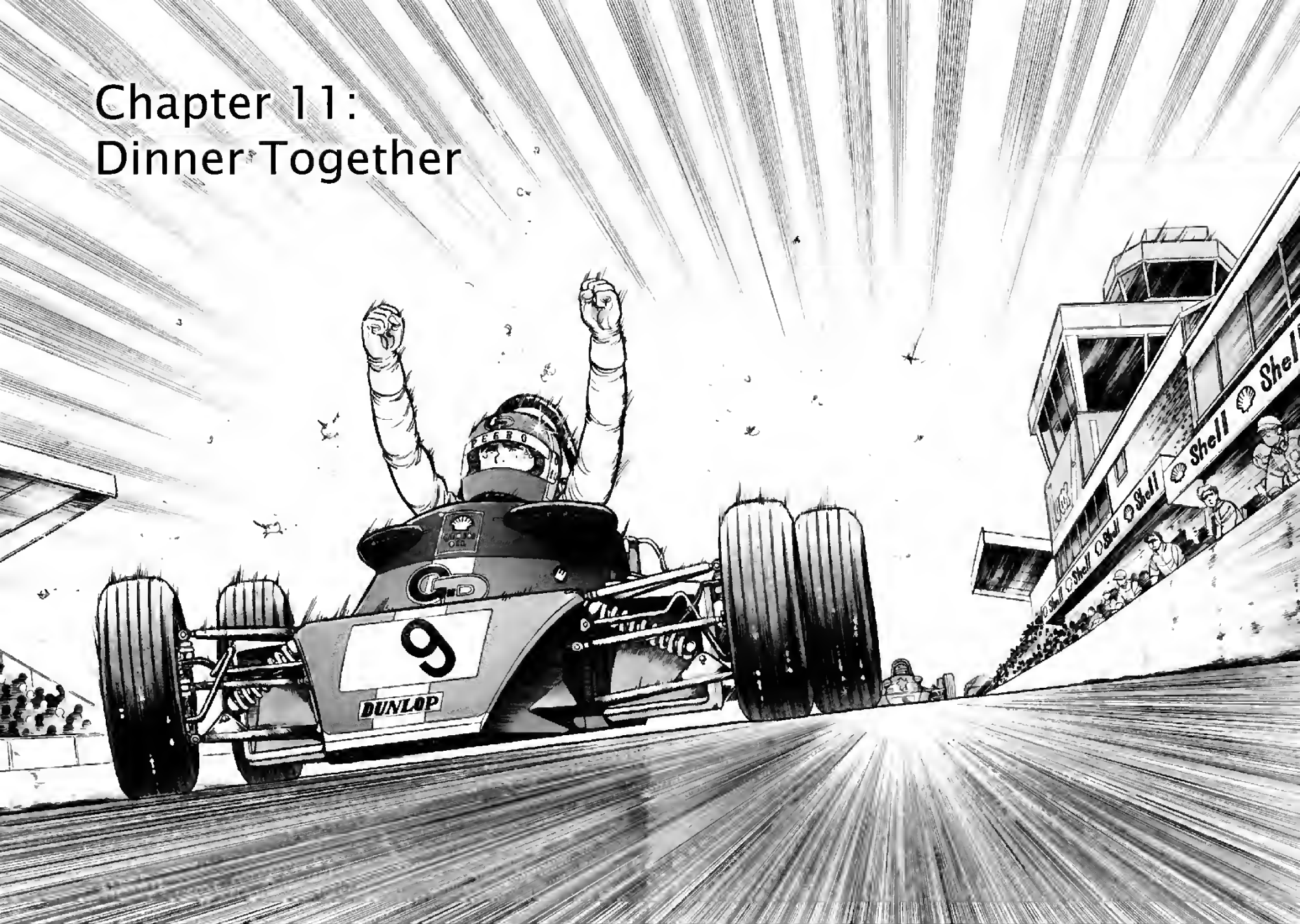

WHOOM

ZOOM
VROOOOM

Chapter 11: Dinner Together



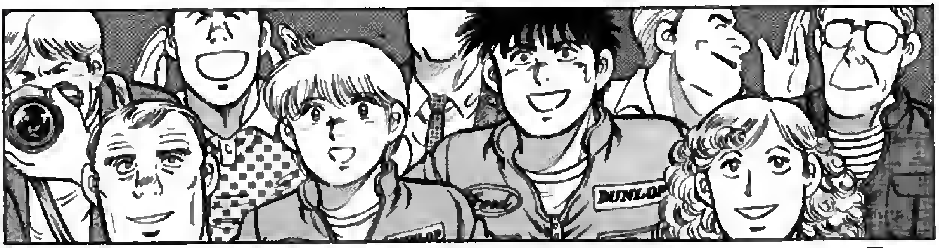
Chapter 11:
Dinner Together

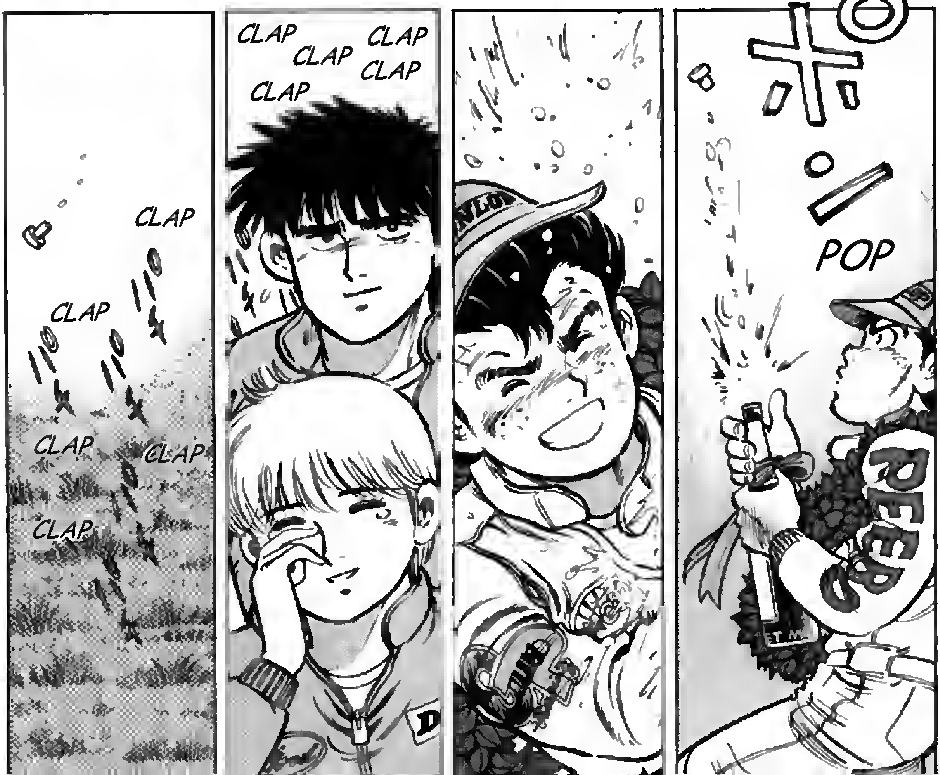


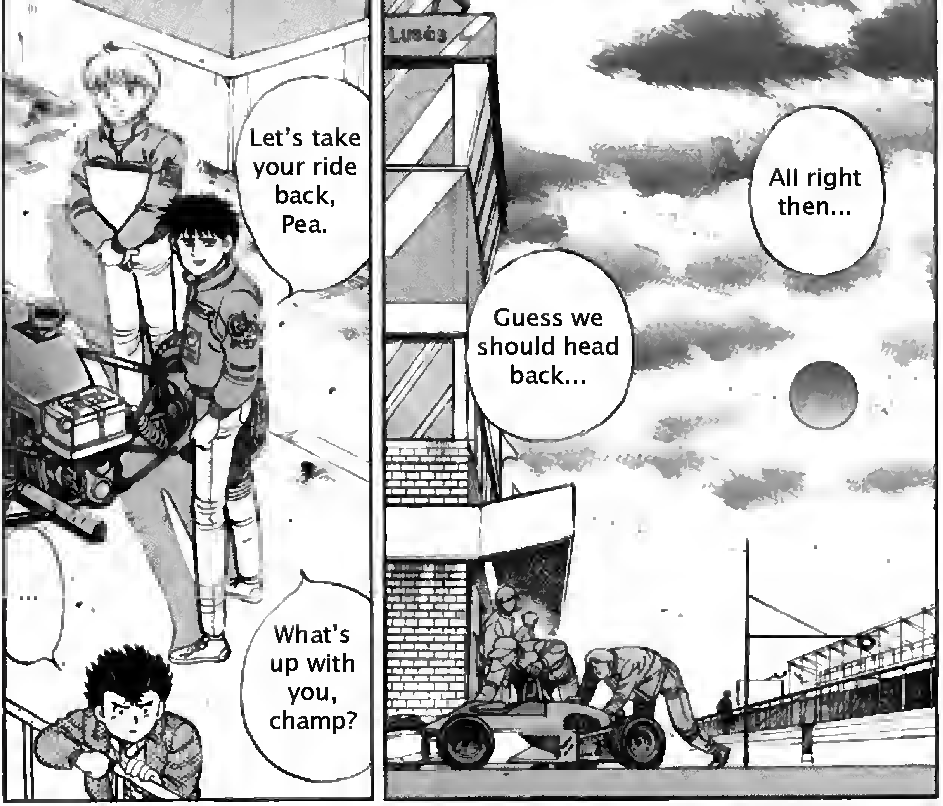
Shell
Shell
Shell
Shell
Shell

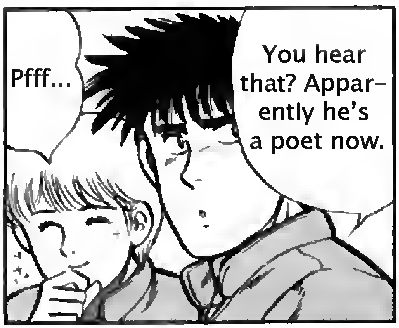
Chapter 11: Dinner Together

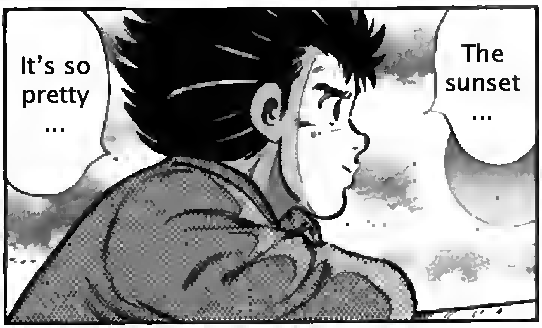
WOOOO
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
DUNLOP


DUNLOP


CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
POP
BEER


Let's take your ride back, Pea.
...
What's up with you, champ?
All right then...
Guess we should head back...

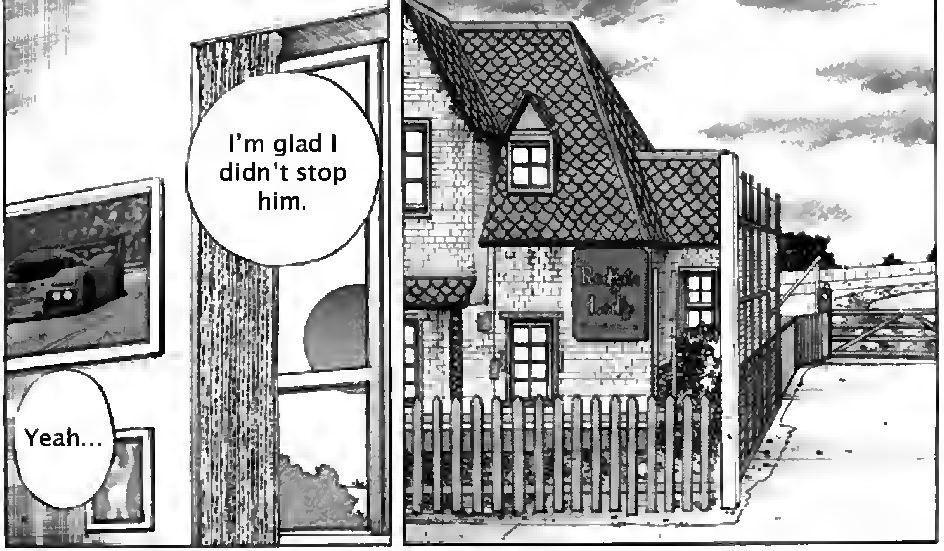

Pfff...
You hear that? Apparently he's a poet now.

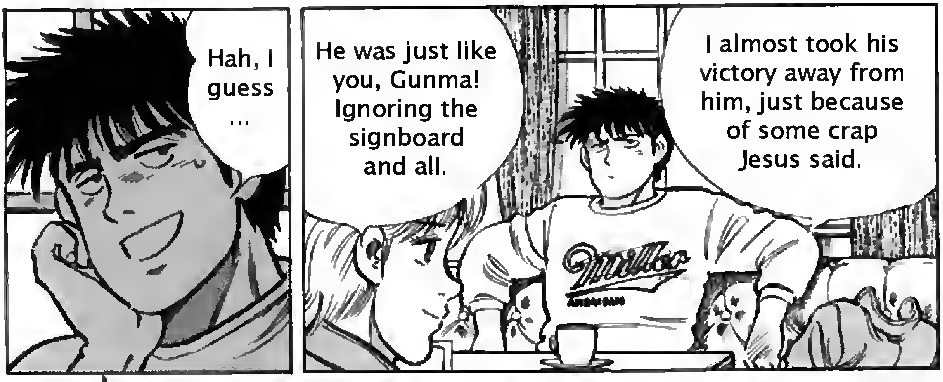

It's so pretty ...
The sunset ...

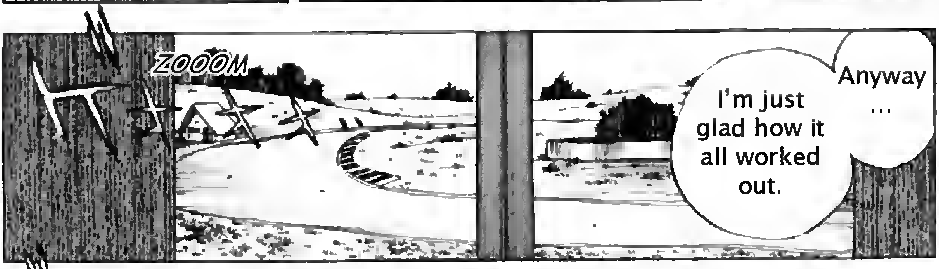
And those guys...
All my friends that I used to hang out with... When it started getting dark, they all had to go home.
I mean...
Until now, I've always hated the sunset...

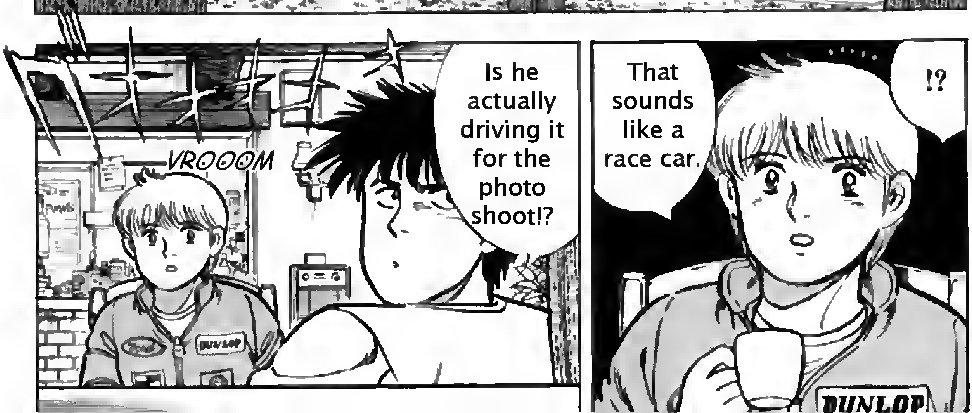
This is the first time that I've seen the sunset for how beautiful it is.
But now, things are different.
...it meant that the loneliest part of my day was about to start.
When the sun turned red...
I didn't have any of that.
They all had a warm dinner and a family waiting for them at home.
...but you did great, kid.
It was a bit scary to watch...
!
Congratulations, Peabow. You were amazing out there.

Pff, look at who's all famous now. What about the car?
I'm gonna do an interview, guys. An interview!
Hey. Gunma Junko.
Why don't you have a coffee at the circuit restaurant or something?
I promised someone I'd meet them.
Hello!
I'll take it in later. They wanna take pictures of me with the car.
Guess I'll see you then!
Hah, what are you all embarrassed about?
Come on, go already!
See you, Peabow.
Okay. We're having dinner together, though!

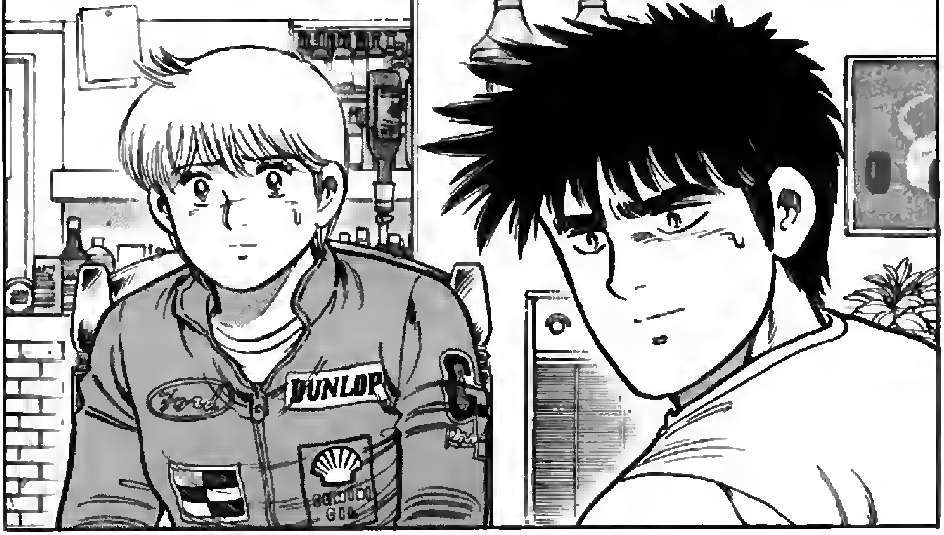

I'm glad I didn't stop him.
Yeah...


Hah, I guess ...
He was just like you, Gunma! Ignoring the signboard and all.
I almost took his victory away from him, just because of some crap Jesus said.

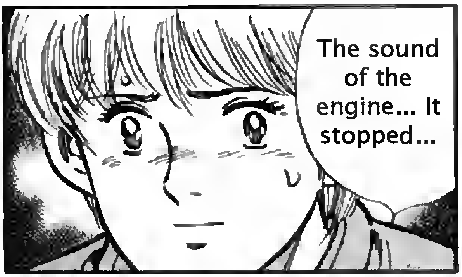

ZOOOM
I'm just glad how it all worked out.
Anyway ...

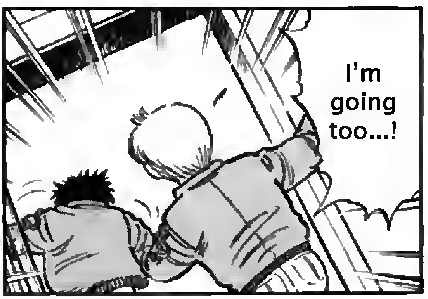

VROOOM
Is he actually driving it for the photo shoot!?
That sounds like a race car.
!?
DUNLOP

Shouldn't we stop him? I mean, the alignment is all off...
...and the tires are all worn out!
The photog-rapher must have asked him to.
VROOOH
Oh no, he's actually driving!
It's not a race.
Just a cruise.
VROOOH
He's just cruising around for the photog-rapher.
Don't worry about it.
VROOH
DUNLOP
VROOH
DUNLOP

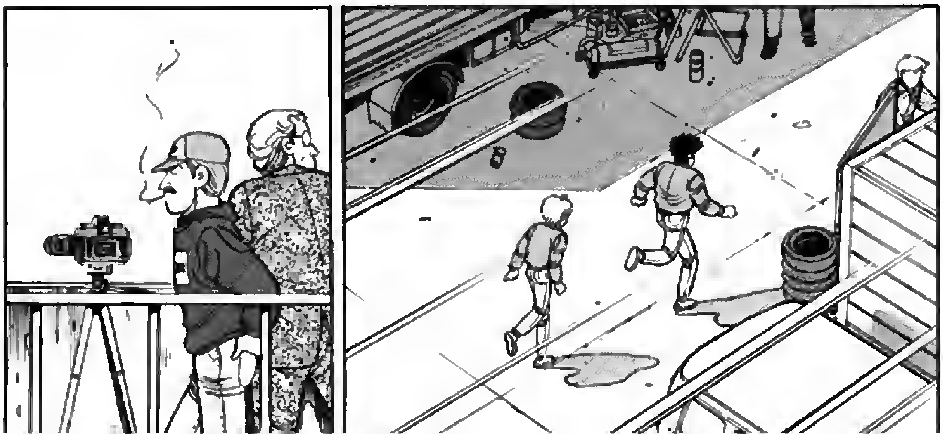

DUNLOP

He just stopped his engine, that's all.

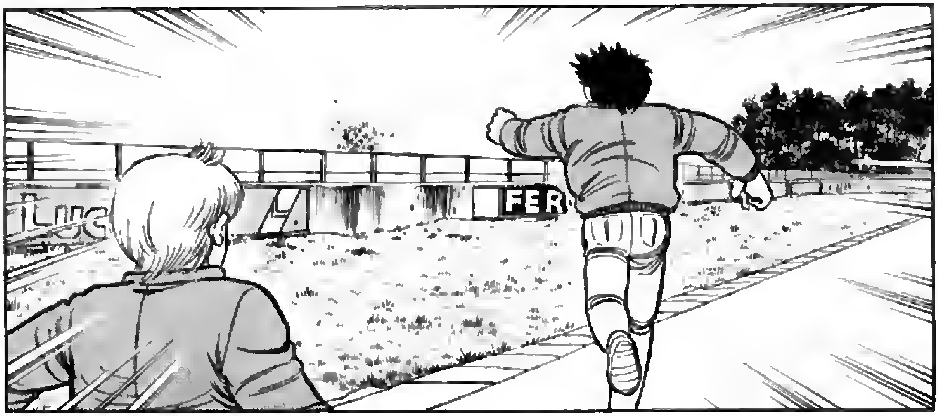

The sound of the engine... It stopped...

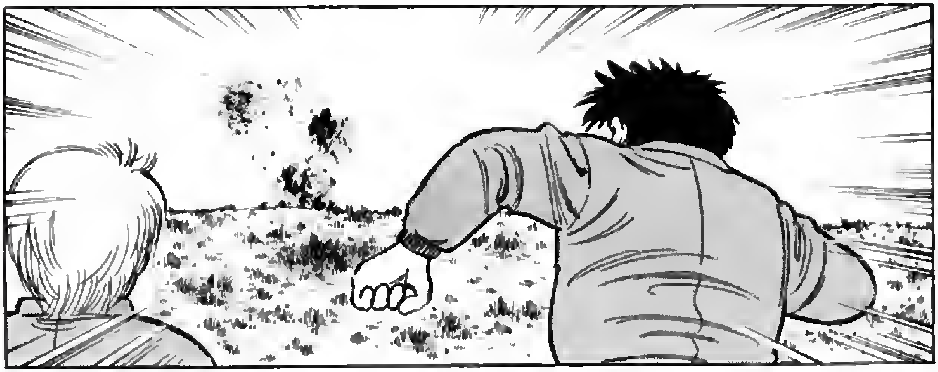

I'm going too...!

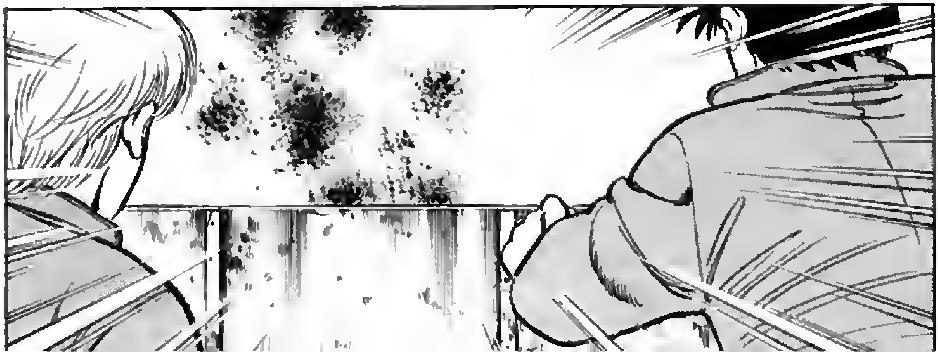
I'm just gonna see how the photo shoot's going...
Where are you going!?



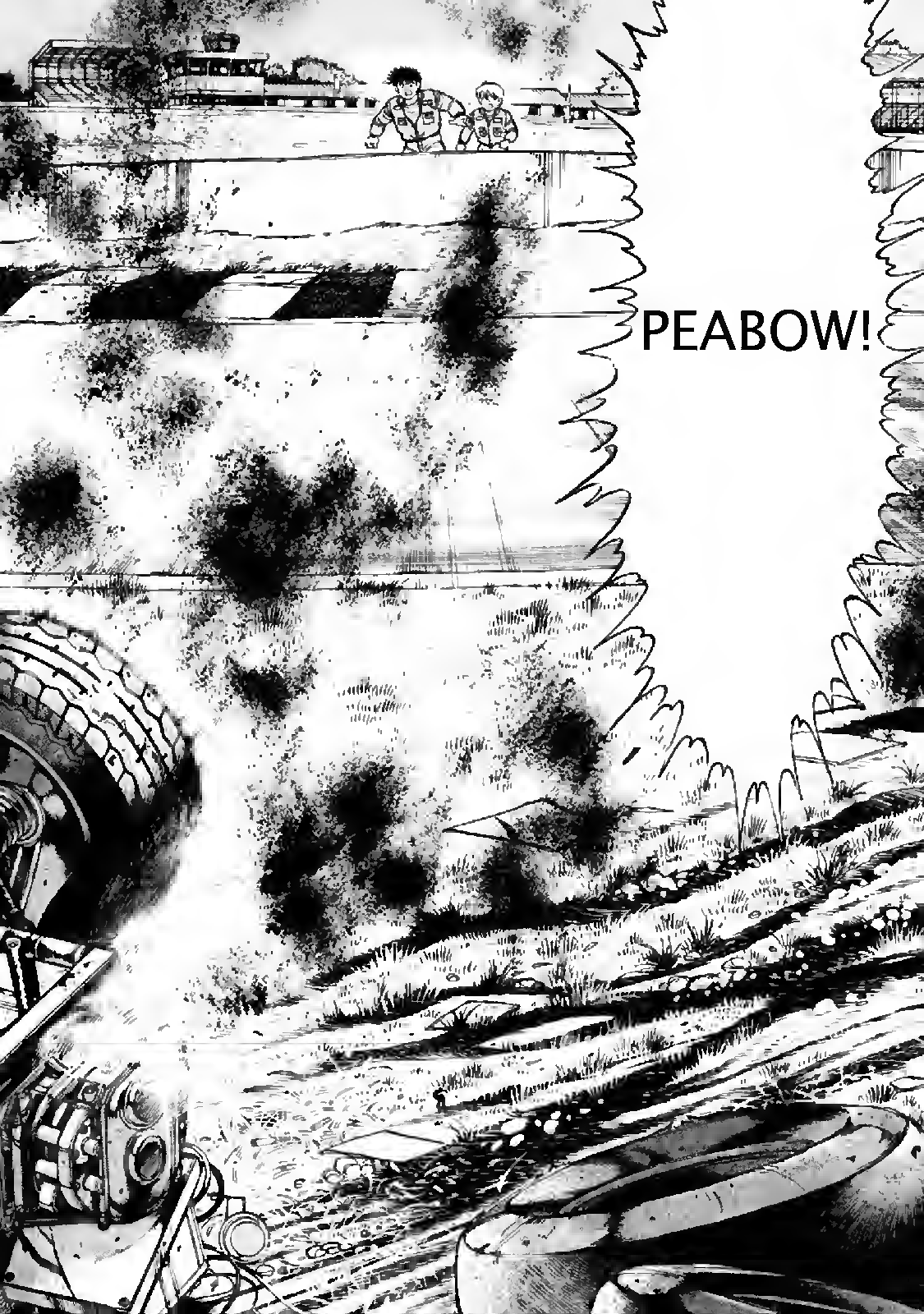
He hasn't come back.
Where's he gone to?

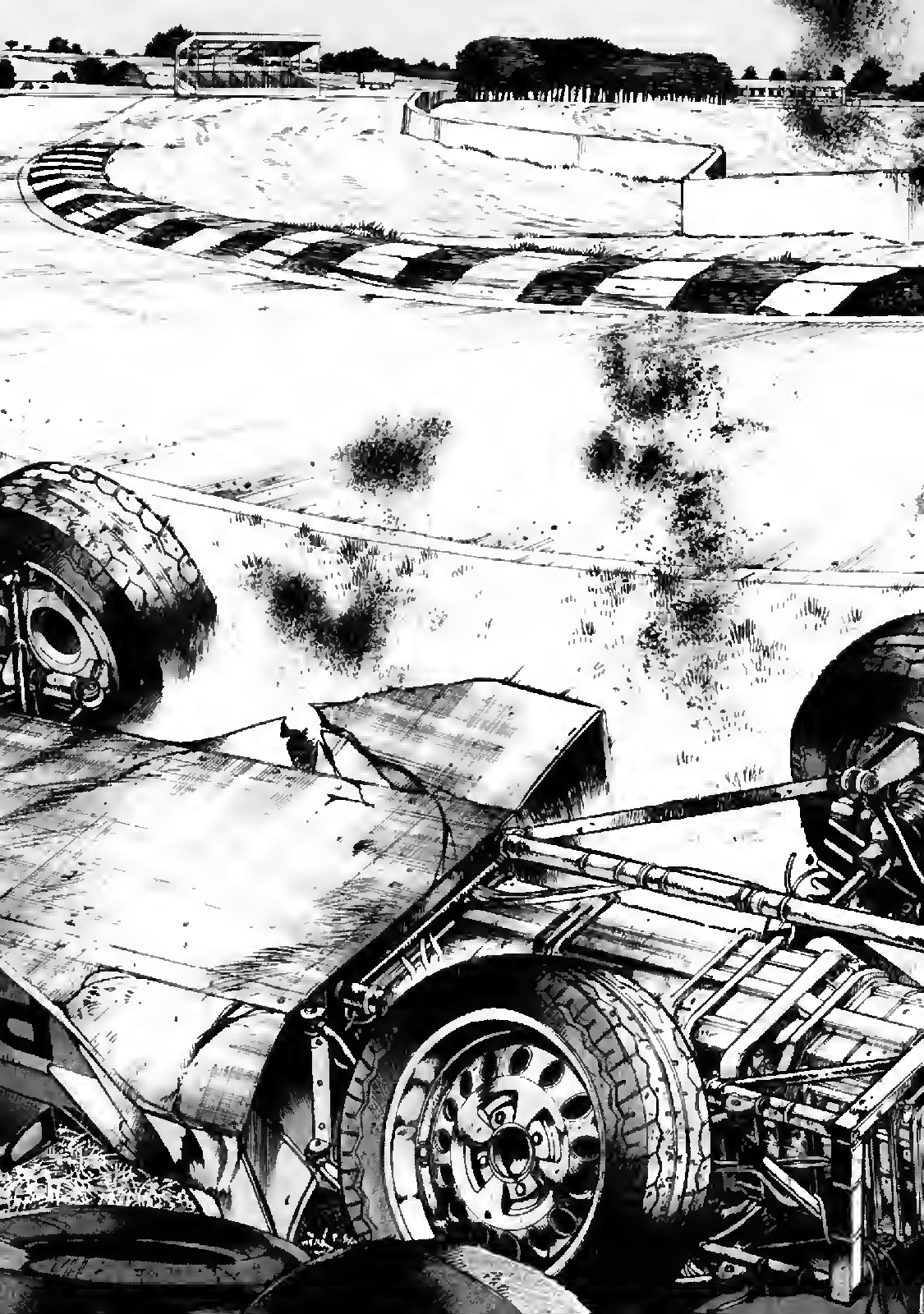






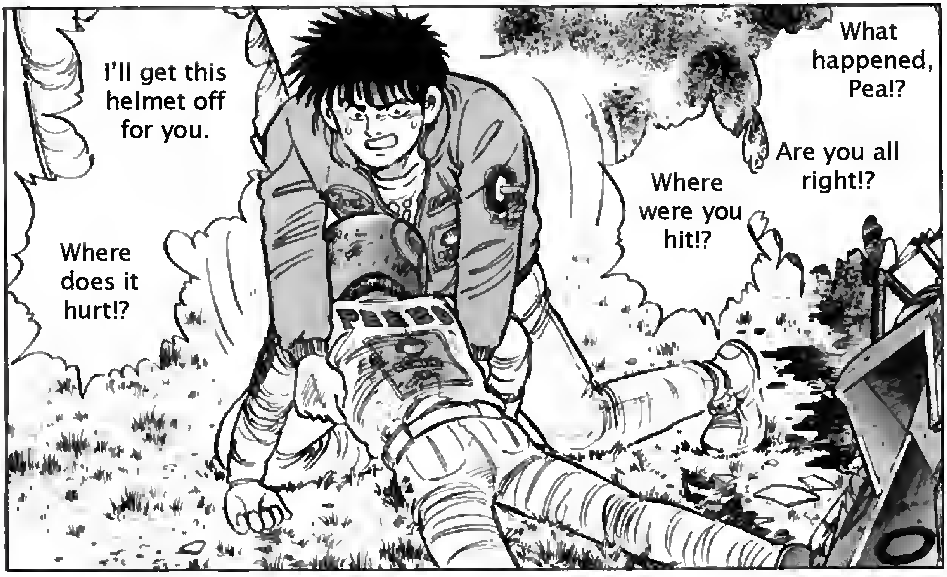
PEABOW!


PEABOW!



No!
Ford
DUNLOP
KRRRT

Pea–
bow!

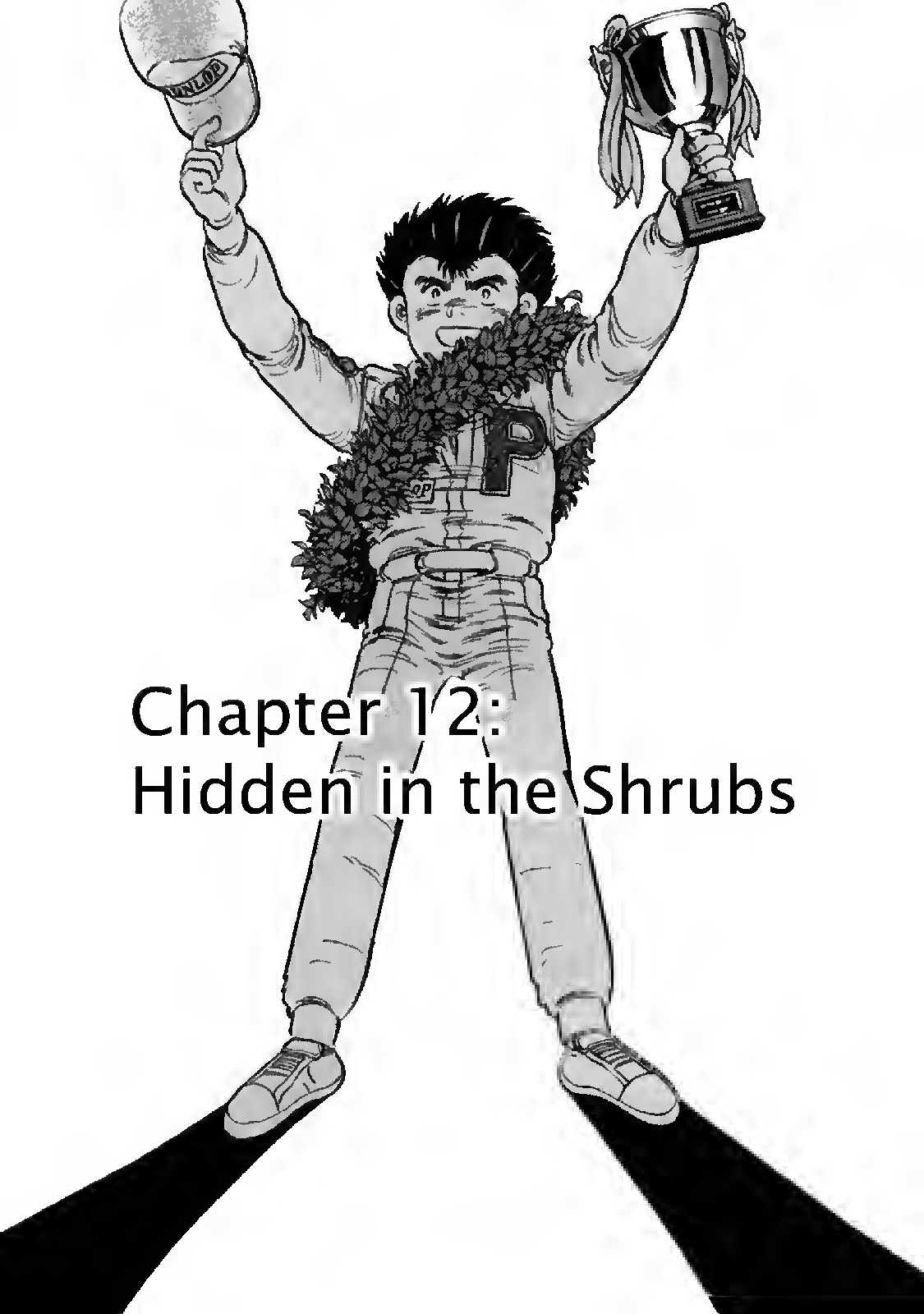

I'll get this helmet off for you.
What happened, Pea!?
Are you all right!?
Where were you hit!?
Where does it hurt!?

TUMBLE
Answer me, Peabow!
Answer me, Peabow!
Can you hear me!?

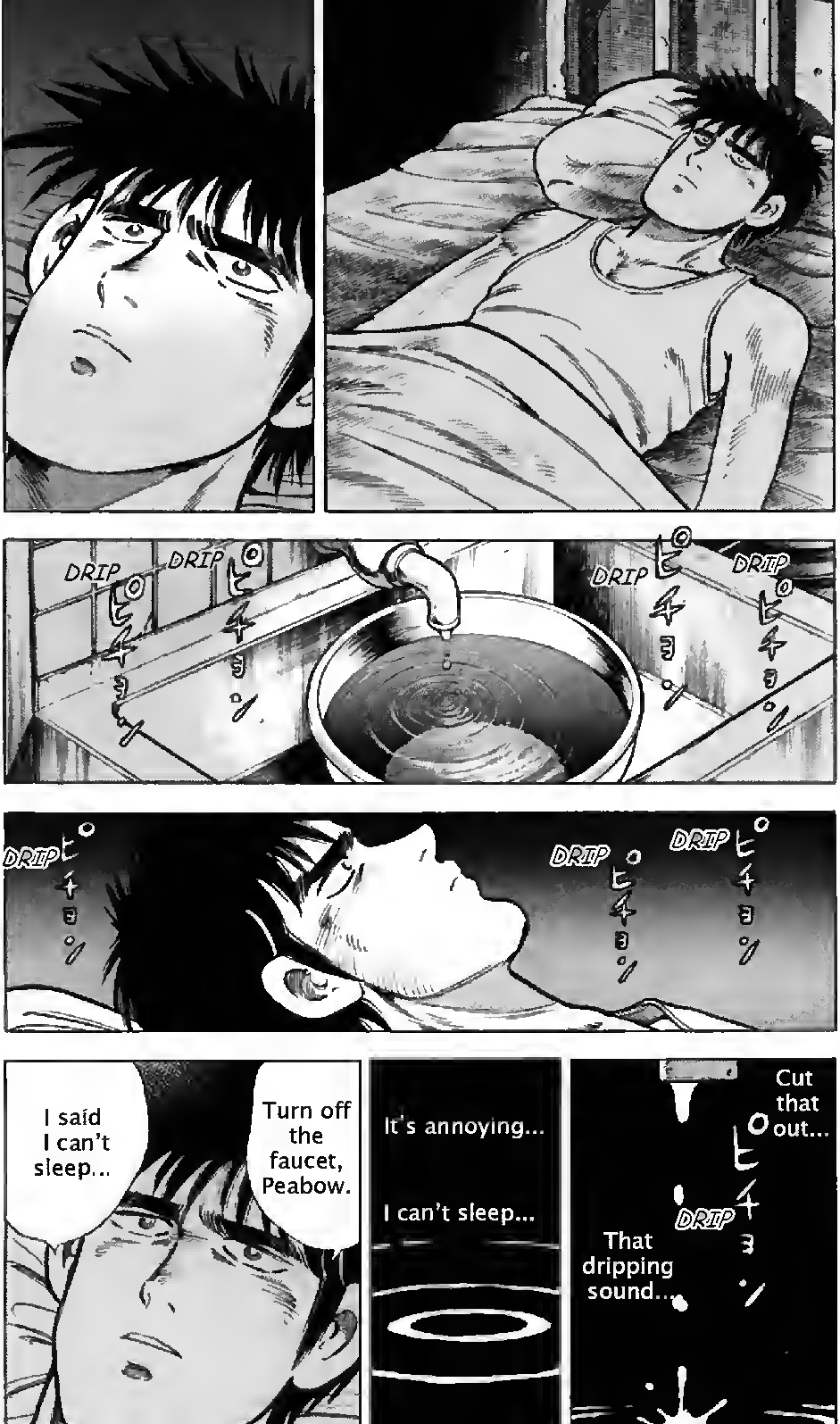
Come on, kid, I'm telling you to speak up!
Pea...!?
Gun... ma...
It hurts...
DUNL

Pea...
Pea...
Pea...
Hey... Hey, come on...
Peabow!
Talk to me, Peabow!
Pea-bow!

PL



Chapter 12: Hidden in the Shrubs


DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
I said I can't sleep...
Turn off the faucet, Peabow.
It's annoying...
I can't sleep...
That dripping sound...
Cut that out...

DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
Peabow!

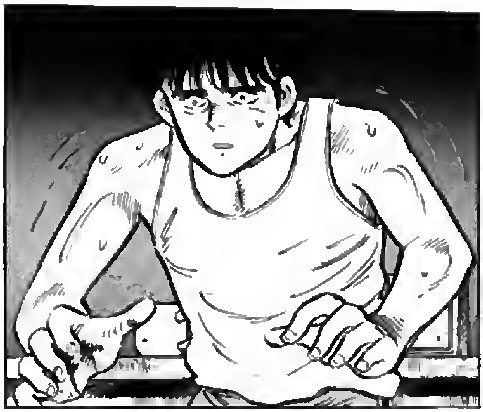
SLAAAM
BAM
Open your eyes, Peabow! Wake up!
Come on, Peabow!
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

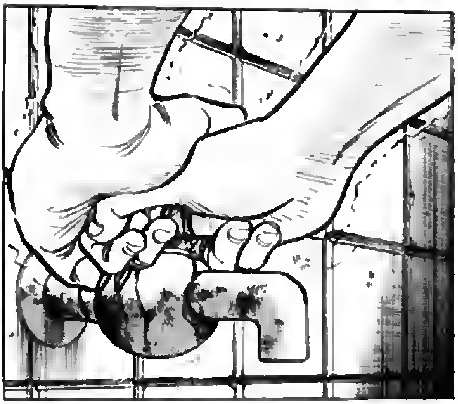
KRRT
Graahhhh!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

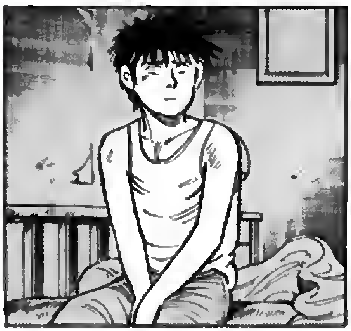
I don't like the sunset.
Gunma... How could... What...?
What's wrong, Gunma? What happened!?
Peabow!
Peabow! Peabow! No! Please say something!
Let go of the kid...
Hey, you...
We're having dinner together, though!
It's no use. His pupils are dilated.
You're lying, Gunma! This is all a lie!
This has to be a lie!

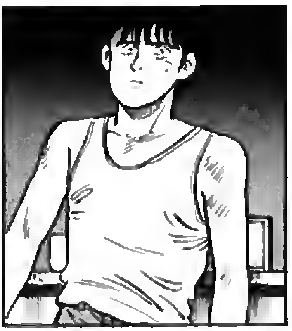
Peabow!
Peabow! Peabow! No! Please say something!
Let go of the kid...
Hey, you...
We're having dinner together, though!
It's no use. His pupils are dilated.

I don't like the sunset.
What's wrong, Gunma? What happened!?
Gunma... How could... What...?
You're lying, Gunma! This is all a lie!
This has to be a lie!





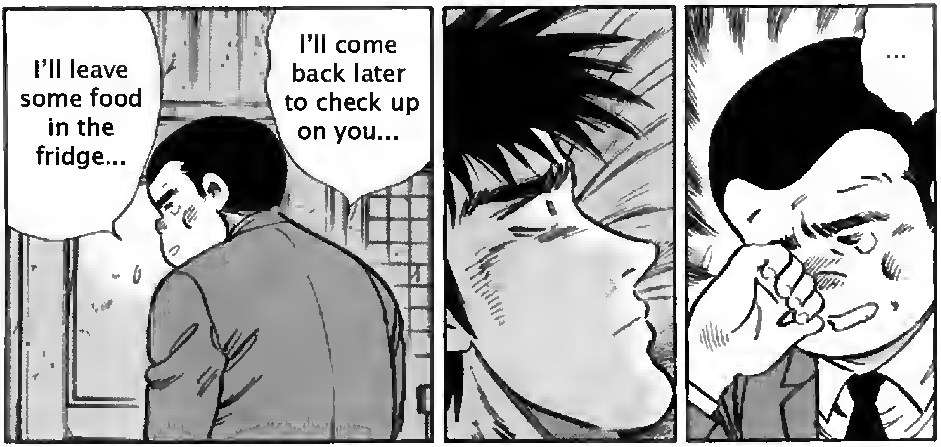




It hurts...
Gun-ma...
It hurts...
Gun-ma...

KACHUK
I'm coming in, Gunma...
...
KNOCK
KNOCK
There were a lot of people there...
The funeral is over...

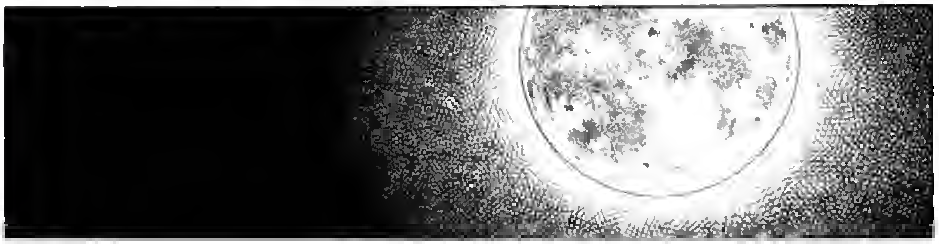
We buried him with his helmet and trophy...
Here... His hat...
You all right...?


I'll leave some food in the fridge...
I'll come back later to check up on you...
...

KACHUK

DUNLOP

Lucas
Lucas
Lucas
Lucas



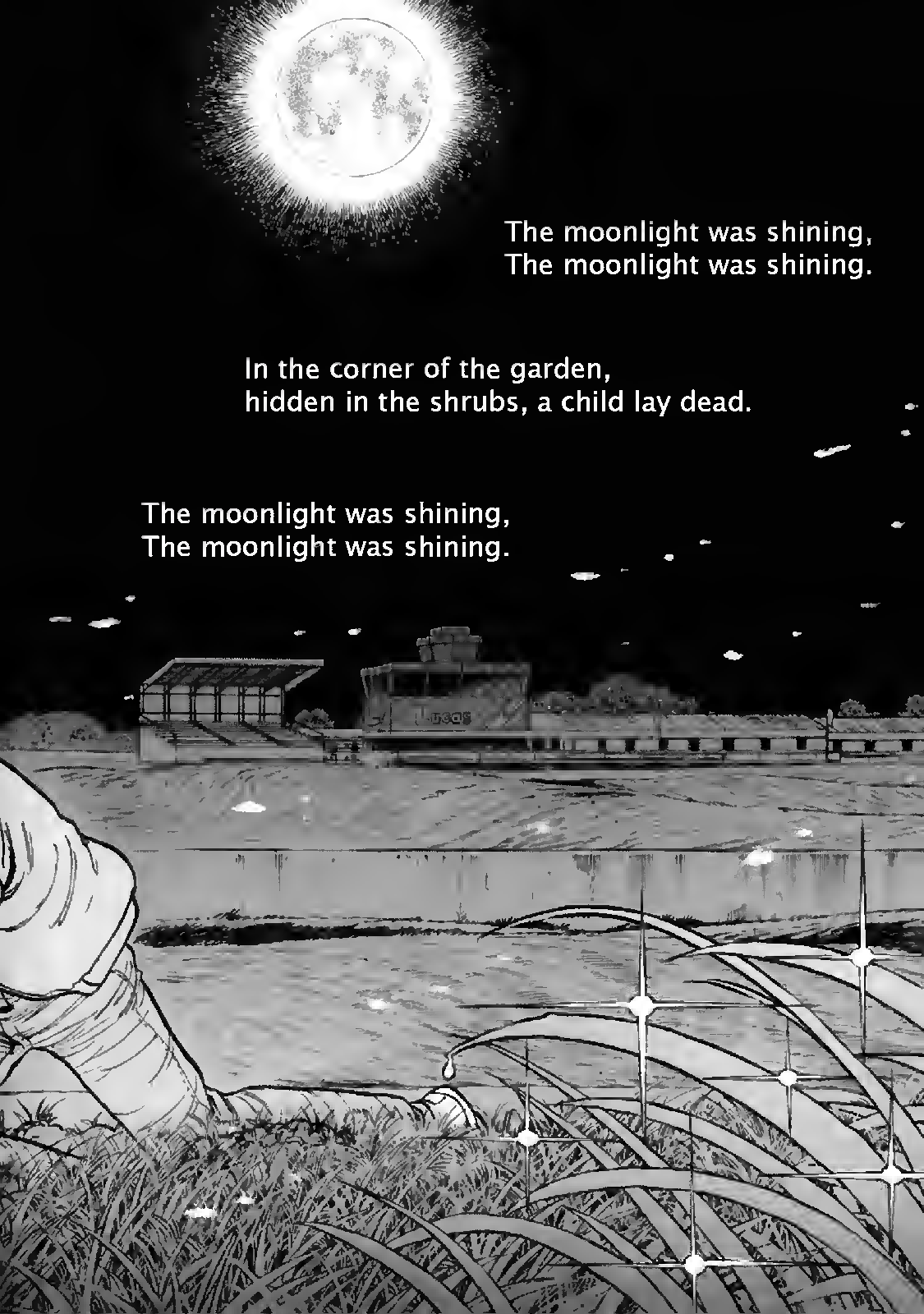
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR

SKRR

SKRR

SKRR
SKRR

Oh, Tircis and Aminte
have come out to the lawn,
The guitars they brought lay cast
off to the side.
The moonlight was shining,
The moonlight was shining.
"Moonlight" by Chuya Nakahara
The moonlight was shining,
The moonlight was shining.
In the corner of the garden,
hidden in the shrubs, a child lay dead.
The moonlight was shining,
The moonlight was shining.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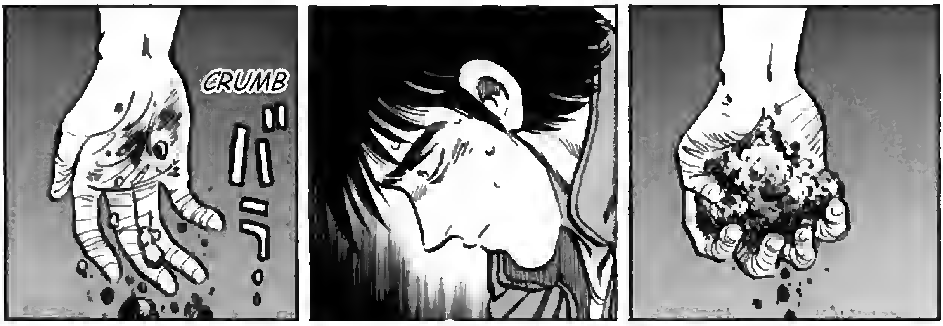
CRUMB
バラ…

"F" Volume 22 THE END

F VOL.22

Author
ROKUDA NOBORU

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